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Calendar 1971

C.A. & Official Tournaments

May 10th-15th	Peel Memorials (Ladies' & Gentlemen's handicap singles) and Lady Murray Memorials (handicap doubles), with the Ascot & Delves Broughton golf croquet cups - at Cheltenham.
May 25th-27th	Inter-County Championships.
May 31st-June 5th	Ryde: Championship of the Isle of Wight.
June 7th-12th	Irish Open Championships, and Founders' Cup. Carrickmines.
June 14th-19th	Compton: Championship of Eastbourne (Horsborough Cup).
June 21st-26th	"Caskets": Ladies' and Gentlemen's Championships, Mixed Doubles Championship, and the du Pré Cup - at Southwick.
June 28th-July 3rd	Parkstone: Dorsetshire Salver, and Gold Cup.
July 5th-10th	Challenge and Gilbey Cups - at Budleigh Salterton.
July 12th-17th	Budleigh Salterton: Championship of the West of England (Colman Cup).
July 19th-24th	Cheltenham: Cheltenham Championship Cup, Money Salver, and Barwell Salvors.
July 26th-31st	Open Championship, Doubles Championship, and the Association Plate.
August 9th-14th	Colchester: Championship of Essex, and Franklin Cup.
August 16th-20th	Hurlingham: Hurlingham Cup, and Hurlingham Doubles; with the C.A. Trophies for Ladies', and Gentlemen's, Handicap Doubles.
August 16th-21st	The Ladies' Field Cup - at Compton.
August 23rd-28th	Nottingham: Nottinghamshire Championship, and the "Robin Hood" Gold Cup.
August 30th-September 4th	Carrickmines: Championship of County Dublin, and the Coronation Cups.
September 6th-10th	Brighton: Sussex Gold Cup, and Reckitt Bowl.
September 13th-18th	Hunstanton: Norfolk Challenge Cup, and Hunstanton Rose Bowl.
September 25th & 26th	Invitation Eights: The President's Cup; The Chairman's Salver - at Cheltenham; and the Surrey Cup - at Colchester.
September 27th-October 9th	Roehampton: Ranelagh Gold Cup, and Creyke Cups.
	All England Handicap Finals - at Roehampton.
	South of England Open, Ladies', Gentlemen's, and Doubles Championships. Devonshire Park.

Non-official fixtures

May 3rd-8th	Budleigh Salterton (Godfrey Turn Cup)
May 17th-22nd	Southwick I (Jellicorse Cup)
August 3rd-7th	Hurlingham (Silver Jubilee Cup)
August 30th-September 4th	Southwick II (Abbey Cup)
September 6th-11th	Hunstanton (Fermoy Cup)
September 13th-18th	Parkstone (Bournemouth Bowl)

Week-ends

April 10th-12th	Cheltenham I
April 16th-18th	Compton
April 23rd-26th	Hunstanton (Butlin Cup)
May 29th-31st	Cheltenham II
June 11th-13th	Nottingham (Peake Tankard)
June 17th-20th	Woking (Woking Challenge Cup)
August 13th-15th	Cheltenham III
August 27th-30th	Colchester
September 17th-19th	Cheltenham IV
October 15th-18th	Cheltenham V

The Gazette

The Official Organ of the Croquet Association

Patron:
Her Majesty The Queen

Croquet and the British Tax Payer

Since the Revival in 1896 Tournament Croquet has been the preserve of devotees of the game who, believing in its qualities as a competitive sport, have met to challenge each other in a spirit of mutual and, in general, friendly rivalry. There has never been, and this is to the game's eternal credit, the least idea that the sport should become in any way a charge on public funds. The last Test Tour did, it is true, receive a small grant for travelling expenses in recognition of the good-will engendered by the Fixture. Also, some Local Authorities do accept an uneconomic rent from Clubs, looking upon them as a recreational amenity. These eleemosynary gestures of assistance to a minority game are a very different matter from government-sponsored coaching schemes with C.A. officials being paid for by public money.

The Council of the C.A. is negotiating a scheme with the Central Council for Physical Recreation whereby the C.C.P.R. has two representatives, Mrs. Neal and Mrs. Meachem, paid £250 each with expenses which include 10½d. per mile car travelling allowance, who will, encumbered with an expensive film-strip projector, scour the countryside (Mrs. Neal in the South, and Mrs. Meachem in the North), spreading the gospel of Croquet wherever they go. Perhaps it is the film-strip projector that highlights the ineptitude of the undertaking more effectively than abstract and ethical considerations. A direct descendant of village hall magic lantern slides, the film-strip is a hopelessly archaic and lifeless form of presentation. "Much good may be done" (for the poor) "by means of a magic lantern, or a missionary, or some popular amusement of that kind." [Lady Hunstanton, in Act I of Oscar Wilde's "A Woman of No Importance".] It is difficult to imagine such an inane programme attracting even moderately intelligent people.

Other aspects, though, of the lamentable enterprise must be considered. Croquet can never, by its very nature, become a popular sport. Its appeal is an esoteric one, and attempts at popularizing (i.e. vulgarizing) the game only dismay the faithful and do not bring in any worth-while converts. And what of these ulterior converts? No suggestion has been voiced, and no assurances given, that any attempt will be made to try to arouse interest in the game among the sort of people who will support the Association and be an asset to it. The sort of people, to put the matter bluntly, whom it will be a pleasure to meet at Tournaments. It is not, by the flabby standards of nowadays, considered "the thing" to speak out on such matters; but it is, nevertheless, what most Associates think. We believe that no useful purpose is served by concealing these thoughts and pretending they do not exist. Removed from its social context, Croquet will not be such an enjoyable game. There is a genuine hunger for quality in the over-crowded modern world. If the Croquet World sells out to vague "progressive" phantasies, it will find that it has sold its birthright for a mess of unpalatable egalitarian pottage.

It is ironic that, at the very time when many of the Official Tournaments are over-subscribed and when the numbers of players are, slowly, beginning to increase (66 new Associates have been listed this year), a zealous but misguided faction, who are not representative of the majority of C.A. members, are pushing blindly forward with a scheme whose implications are, we believe, harmful to Croquet.

The integrity and the independence of the Croquet Association are compromised by this undertaking. Let us hear no more of it.

Rover Notes

Vivat Caledonia!

For the fourth year running our Northern neighbours have annexed the All England Handicap Trophy. Naturally, many Sassenach noses are turned up at the Scottish handicappers. Words, scandalous words, have been heard at Hurlingham, and Compton, Budleigh Salterton, and Cheltenham: "Shouldn't be allowed"; "Disgraceful"; "I wonder they have the nerve"—and so on! Before joining the chorus of vilification this Rover would like to point out that only last year two Official Handicappers, D. C. Caporn and B. Lloyd-Pratt, were Manager

and Referee, respectively, for the Scottish Open Championships at Edinburgh, and they were both satisfied that that year's winner, Dr. Milne, was correctly and fairly handicapped. Of course, the Scots are lucky in the All England. But another reason can be put forward: the courts. North of the Border there are not the playing surfaces that lucky Southerners take for granted. A Scottish player coming on to English courts finds that the extra confidence he gains from the quality of the lawn is worth at least two bisques. Perhaps, when the Scots next have an Open Tournament, English visitors might be treated to two extra bisques. Or what about a dual handicapping system: 5 (D.4) [N.B. 7 (D.6)]?

The Rape of Roquetetta

The lady, perhaps it should be the Muse, who appears on our cover, was christened (the first "t" is silent, of course) by Captain Greenham of Ipswich. She made her *début* as the frontispiece, designed by Charles Dawson, for Leonard Williams's book, "Croquet", published by the Isthmian Library in 1899. She has come to stand for the more endearing, and, let us hope, enduring qualities of our fascinating game; and, like many hall-marks of the Good Life, she is threatened. At the Council meeting in October ugly words like "cheaper paper", "off-set lithography" and "cutting our coat according to our cloth" were rumbling forth—in short, *The Gazette* was exceeding its budget. Now, the Association has had the splendid good fortune to find printers who are doing a really first-rate job at a very reasonable cost. They are producing a publication that tries to be worthy of Croquet, and sets out to purvey a conviction of quality. The sum of money, derisively small in any case, that would be saved by making the *Gazette* nasty, would be lost ten times over through destroying our belief that Croquet itself deserves the best.

RETROSPECT: 1970

by
Maurice Reckitt

If one swallow doesn't make a summer, croquet players here might be ready to agree that two antipodean ladies sufficed to do so. Actually our past summer did not do too badly on its own account (although those competing in our invitation events might be pardoned for questioning this). But that the presence amongst us of Jean Jarden and Biddy Dodd did very much to make our season would not be queried by any who were fortunate enough to meet and to watch them. There were of course others more frequently here, such as Albert Saalfeld and Harold Clemons—and a new visitor in Miss Morgan—who contributed substantially to the happiness it always gives us to have those who travel from such distant shores to give an international flavour to our tournaments. The Antipodes has a "favourable balance of trade" in these enterprising exports, but no doubt they would welcome a little competition from ourselves in this respect.

Our Big Three—winners of the Championship, the President's Cup and the Stoker Cup respectively—with their dazzling enterprise, their exquisite precision and their power to "keep it up"—are still at the top. Yet if any player last season displayed his ability to "live with" these great stars, all several decades younger than himself, it was Bill Perry, who must surely be deemed to have been extremely unlucky not to win the President's Cup. With his brilliant sequence of eleven games it was rather the failure of several of his fellow competitors to win games which they ought to have won than any remissness on his part which robbed him of an honour which many of us felt he richly deserved. Very few sexagenarians have done as well as he did this year in this competition.

Space does not allow any full consideration of others for whom 1970 was a notable year. But mention must be made of Michael Stride who, at his first appearance in really top class croquet, not only reached the semi-final of the Championship but carried off the Chairman's Salver with the loss of only one game. He was "hunted home" by Edgar Jackson who maintained his remarkable record of never being out of the first two to finish in this event; is he perhaps the finest contemporary player who has never—yet—appeared in the President's Cup? (Ten years ago this might have been—and in fact was—said of John Hollweg.) Another who had a good season was Bryan Lloyd-Pratt, who ended it by winning the Men's Championship at Devonshire Park. The winner of the Open there the previous week had been Dr. Wiggins who in view of his very rare appearances on a croquet court maintains his form remarkably well. An ever-renewed horde of young men give great promise of a future which in most cases has inevitably to be postponed.

Of the ladies there is not much to be said. Joan Warwick, Kay Longman and Hope Rotherham are all still very much "there". But their supremacy is challenged, notably by Kitty Sessions (perhaps our No. 1 lady now) and Jocelyn Sundius-Smith, as tenacious as ever and now more enterprising. Among the latest comers probably the most promising is Barbara Meachem, a brilliant roquet hitter at all distances,

with her "Solomon" grip. But she will need to make her game more controlled and compact; too often after running a hoop she is found to be hitting her partner ball *backwards*, not a practice likely to produce many triple peels.

What are the problems for us most obviously awaiting an early solution? Perhaps chief among these is the congestion at tournaments at the height of the season. There are many reasons for this; one is the liberation of our numerous young scholars, chiefly from the universities, by the end of June, an influence much of course to be welcomed in itself, but one which contributes to our "population problem" up to the middle of September. The fact is that though our Calendar is so well-planned now as to avoid our leading clubs from infringing the rights of others, what we have come to need is more tournaments. In the half-dozen years before the First War it was not uncommon for the Calendar to offer, in August, as many as half-a-dozen fixtures each week; excluded from one, you had every chance of getting into another. Perhaps it would be possible for our—too few—clubs today to supplement their main tournament by others reserved for special categories of players—as e.g. for Novices or for Veterans, who tend to have rather a thin time in these days of triumphant youth.

Related to this is the regrettable phenomenon of what can be paradoxically described as the "Closed Open Tournament"—one to which old frequenters return so often that it is booked up for the following season as soon as it is over. It is easy to understand how this may come about, and even to sympathize up to a point with clubs—an increasing number one suspects—who have committed themselves to this practice. But is it a desirable one? It is perhaps easier to doubt this than to formulate ways in which it can be avoided. But it is unreasonable to suggest that just as tournaments are now required to state on their programmes what is the latest date by which entries can be received they should now—by some regulation of the Council—state what is the earliest? This might be three or four months—or possibly less—before the day on which play begins. But if such an idea should find favour it will be necessary that a uniformity in this respect should be laid down for all clubs by our governing body.

Another obvious need for our tournaments is a rapid increase in the number of those authorized to manage them. One is tempted to adapt the famous dictum of Churchill to this situation: never in the history of our game has so much been owing by so many to so few. There was a period not long ago when it was not uncommon for experienced Managers at large tournaments to accept and train "apprentices" in their subtle art. Could not this practice be revived and officially encouraged? No doubt a good many Managers might prefer not to be involved in such a task, but it has got to be undertaken somehow or a dangerous crisis may be reached. Sometimes it seems as if old Managers never die but persist unselfishly with their public-spirited labours. But if they do not die they do rather tend to fade away; whether or not they are aware of the fact. Younger hands must come to the rescue. A conspicuous example has been afforded this year at Hurlingham and Parkstone, and though perhaps the player-manager, once an only too familiar figure at our tournaments, is not one which is always satisfactory, Dr. Bray has shown not only how selflessly but how efficiently this rôle may be performed.

A further problem, if we (as I do) regard it as such, is the virtual disappearance of the fast court. This has been a dry summer, yet few of those examining our lawns who were not aware of the fact would have guessed it. There is of course a notable exception (due to the unfailing care of Edward Duffield) at Colchester, and we have been told by some of those present at the Chairman's Salver played for there that some of the competitors were at a loss to know how to deal with so unfamiliar a surface. Compton's courts, too, were gloriously fast for their Official Tournament in June. Hurlingham seldom fails to provide reasonably fast courts for its major fixtures, but how many other clubs contrive to do so? The courts at Roehampton are beautiful to look upon but anything but pleasant to play upon, the surface suggesting that of a thick pile carpet. With one or two exceptions the courts at Devonshire Park in October were wearisomely heavy and only too suggestive of the swamp existing on this site for many years. No doubt it is true, as is often said, that great players can play great croquet on any surface, but this does not mean that it is desirable that they should be required

Concluded in centre of next column

Notes from the Clubs

Ipswich—Founded 1907

Chairman: CAPTAIN A. W. GREENHAM

The Club now has forty-three members. We continue to keep in touch with the various Sports Councils, and hope to be able to extend to four courts. The well-attended A.G.M. on October 29th was honoured by a visit from Miss Lintern who has taken a great interest in the Club, and has kindly presented a Shield for the Novice Competition, which was won by Mrs. D. White. Other Club events have been won as follows: The President's Cup: Capt. Greenham; the Golf Croquet Cup: Mrs. White; the Allen Memorial Salvers: Mrs. A. Zinn and S. Boddington. It was decided to have a handicapping committee; and Captain Greenham was congratulated on his successful season, earning a reduction in bishes from 11 to 6½. A satisfactory balance of £321, including Mr. C. R. Palmer's most generous donation of £75, was reported by Mrs. Zinn, the hon. Treasurer.

The meeting ended as a social gathering, arranged by Mrs. M. Cordy and her helpers, with members showing transparencies of visits to Canada, New Zealand and Russia.

We now have half our members playing Association Croquet, not just golf croquet, and eight members competed in national tournaments. Five years ago there were only eight Association players here. We are very pleased to learn that the Apps Memorial Award has been given, for 1970, to this Club.

Hon. Secretary: MISS E. I. WOOD.

Retrospect: 1970 Concluded

to do so. The "touch game", which is surely that which is best suited to the genius of croquet, seems to be becoming almost a thing of the past. Croquet has sometimes been not unfitly described as "billiards on the lawn", and the closer to billiard tables our courts can become the nearer we shall be to the ideal to which those who produce them should aspire. The trouble of course lies in the fact that to achieve this needs a much greater degree of care—and knowledge—than our clubs can normally command. How grateful we should be to those amateurs like Mr. Duffield and Col. Wheeler and professionals like Tom Grey and West, now unhappily retiring from Hurlingham and Budleigh Salterton respectively, who have been producing such courts for us for so many years.

EDWARDIAN CROQUET IN CEYLON

by
Rachael Elliott

When I began to play croquet in Ceylon in 1898 the game had only just begun to be played in the Island. We were all very keen but knew nothing about the finer points of the game, so when the "Ceylon Times" announced one day that an English Championship croquet player had arrived we were thrilled. His name was C. L. Tivy—I wonder if anybody remembers him? He was a small, frail-looking young man in the late twenties, and was immediately nicknamed "Ricky Ticky Tivy" after Kipling's mongoose. He was very popular. He taught us the four-ball break and how to leave all the balls wired from the next player. We had two pegs in those days and the balls were coloured blue, red, black and yellow. The championship was played in Nuwara Eliya, the Sanatorium, 6,000 feet above sea level. When I was lucky enough to win it in 1904 there were only about 20 entries, and Mr. Tivy was not competing. We didn't separate the cocks from the hens in those days. Croquet was also played in Colombo and in the tea-planting districts, although in some parts the rainfall was 300 inches per annum. My brother was a tea-planter, and when he made his croquet court I remember seeing the coolies using a dibble to plant each grass root separately.

In the "naughty nineties", when I was growing up, it was considered indelicate to show any part of the leg above the ankle, so we played croquet in skirts sweeping the ground. We had very small waists, wore very high starched collars, and "sailor" hats—the latter were of white straw with narrow straight brims, and didn't in the least resemble what seamen wore.

Edgbaston—Founded 1919

President: J. B. MEACHEM, ESQ.

Club Champion: M. STRIDE, ESQ.

The Edgbaston Club has been in existence for over fifty years, mainly on its present site. For much of this time it has had a flourishing membership, including a bridge section, but like most clubs which rely on croquet alone, it has had its vicissitudes. Consequently it became somewhat atrophied and its members rather elderly. But we are glad to report that in latter years a new spirit has been breathed into the Club, accompanied by a refreshing influx of younger members. An active working team under the lash of Barbara Meachem has renovated the pavilion and has done and is doing much to improve the condition of our three lawns. We have, this season, four new Association referees who have won for us Mrs. Prichard's award.

The Club members have attended well at Association Tournaments, with the gratifying result that this year they have won thirteen events, including the Sussex Gold Cup, the big handicaps at Cheltenham, Colchester and Hunstanton, the Maurice Reckitt Bowl, the Peels and the D. D. Steel Memorial Bowl. Perhaps special mention may be made of the progress of Michael Stride who reached the semi-final of the Open Championship, and won the Chairman's Salver at Colchester, for which event Neil Robinson was also invited.

The Honorary Secretary tries to keep croquet on the map by his association with the West Midlands Standing Conference for Sports Organizations, and with the Birmingham Sports Advisory Council. The latter hope to hold a Sports Week in 1971, when we must advertise ourselves. An interesting example of "publicité manquée" occurred when we sent out about 150 invitations to local residents to visit the Club or ring up the Honorary Secretary. Result: one 'phone call—no new members!

We enjoy an active and pleasant association with the newly-formed Stourbridge Club, and assisted at the Sports Week held at Wolverhampton.

Unhappily this Winter we lost to other clubs eight members; it is earnestly hoped that these gaps will be filled and that the Club will continue to thrive.

Hon. Secretary: F. R. MEACHEM, ESQ.

About this time croquet had taken a new lease of life. The lawn had boundaries: no longer could one knock one's opponent to the far end of the garden, or into a bush if possible. The hoops were made narrower, and the cage in the middle of the ground with a bell suspended inside had been banished.

The Ceylon Golf, Tennis and Croquet Championships were all played in Nuwara Eliya in two weeks of hectic activity in February. When I was twenty-three I managed, somehow, to win all three. There is a Cingalese proverb: "The young calf knows no fear". I attribute my success to the fact that I was full of confidence and never felt nervous, having everything to gain and nothing to lose.

[Miss Elliott's niece, Lady Shaw, is a playing member of Hurlingham, and we are most grateful to her for prevailing upon her aunt to contribute this charming Imperial Epilogue to the "As it Was" symposium—EDROR.]

What Katy Did

Never, when a game is spent
Ask the player how it went.
Nobody was ever meant
To remember or invent
How he did in each event.

E.A.M.P.

(with apologies to Robert Frost).

Obituaries

Miss E. M. Bramwell

From the turn of the century, for more than two decades, few figured so attractively, or had more classic success, than Eveline Mary Bramwell, who died on September 7th at Sandwich in her eighty-ninth year. She learned her croquet at the historic Cheltenham Club, taught initially by her father Dr. J. W. Bramwell, and came rapidly to the front, as was seen quite early on, when, whilst still in her teens, she won the Ladies' Gold Medal in 1901. Six years later, in 1907, she won that Event again, in her quick exceptionally graceful style, and in the same year scored her first victory in the Ladies' Championship. Twice more she became Lady Champion, in 1908 and 1914. So easy in fact was her path to victory in the last-named year that a contemporary account rather archly speaks of her as "capable of winning the Ladies' Championship whenever she cares to enter for it". However that may be, in 1914 she won from an unprecedented field of 46 competitors, without dropping a single game. She was now perhaps second only to Mrs. Beaton herself among top-ranking ladies, but World War was at hand, and for the next four years, needless to say, Miss Bramwell's energies were far otherwise expended. First she was engaged as an ambulance driver, and then joined the Ladies' Legion in which capacity she broke a wrist. This was to prove a considerable handicap to her when croquet was resumed after the War.

Not surprisingly something of her former brilliance had deserted her, yet in 1921, before an expectant and admiring gallery, she carried off the Mixed Doubles Championship jointly with C. L. O'Callaghan and the victors defended the title the following year.

The year 1922, in fact, was Miss Bramwell's last playing season. She stood up well to Miss Steel in the Ladies' Championship, and took the first game. It was an old champion versus a new one, though the difference in age was negligible. By her retirement croquet was deprived prematurely of a very vital force and delightful personality with which were combined notable good looks. She remained an Associate for many years to come.

Mrs. T. S. Oliver

The death of Muriel Oliver has deprived the Croquet World of a staunch and loyal supporter. Although she had been a player it is many years now since she was seen on the court; but Associates who frequent Hurlingham or Southwick or Devonshire Park will miss her cheerful and encouraging presence. Ours is not a sport that is noted for its serried ranks of spectators crowding round the courts; but Muriel and Tommy Oliver (the latter, happily, still with us) were survivors of an almost extinct genus: the Croquet Spectator.

Miss M. C. Macaulay

Margaret Macaulay was a regular competitor at Devonshire Park, and had played at Woking and other Clubs in the old days. She was a determined and effective opponent off her handicap of 7, and was a popular and cultured lady whose absence from our Tournaments leaves the Croquet World the poorer.

Sir Francis Barry, Bart.

A leading exponent of near peerless eminence in Croquet's pre-war days, C. F. Barry, died peacefully in Kent on October 27th, at the age of 86 years. When he succeeded to his father's baronetcy in 1949 he dropped his better-known christian name, Claude, in favour of his second name.

An Associate from 1905 to 1953, Claude Barry's heyday was certainly brief, but exceptionally brilliant; from 1919 to 1921 it was almost phenomenal. During this close period he was chosen for The Champion (Beddow) Cup three times; twice he won it outright, and in no year scored less than eleven games, a remarkable and probably unrivalled record.

With Mrs. W. H. Hope as partner, he won the Mixed Doubles Championships in 1919 amid some disputation. The writer of the official report severely rebuked the victorious pair for dilatory, "ancient", tactics in the final—which was a "prolonged agony". Normally the writer would have wished to offer congratulations to new champions, on the present occasion, however, he found it impossible to do so!

The intemperate tone of the report drew a dignified protest from Mr. Barry; he deplored its wild distortions and vindictive bias, and rejected its specific charge of undue slowness altogether.

Claude Barry was an artist and etcher of note and a regular exhibitor at the Paris Salon. For many years after 1921 he lived at Bordighera, whence he journeyed daily to Menton for the annual meetings in March. Despite inevitable lack of practice, he won the Championship of the Riviera on at least six occasions. His spectacular rushing and hard accurate shooting were of unfailing interest to the onlooker.

After long absence from England, Mr. Barry appeared at Roehampton in 1934 for the Open Championships. The total lack of practice told adversely, and he lost to Mr. Maurice Reckitt in an early round. Thereafter, to the undoubted detriment of tournaments in England, he again only competed on French soil.

R. V. N. Wiggins, Esq.

Neville Wiggins died, aged 84, at his home in Bexhill on September 14th after a long illness. A croquet player all his life, he did well at all the various games he enjoyed. A scratch golfer, first-class at chess, county standard at bridge, he enjoyed his Croquet as much as anyone although he did not reach the front rank. He played at the Northern Didsbury Club before the war, and used to bring up a team of Lancashire players to Hurlingham for the Inter-Counties. He was a great humorist and wrote several amusing contributions for the *Gazette*. Latterly he settled at Bexhill and joined the Compton Club; and during this period won the Gilbey Cup in 1952. He had to give up playing two years ago, but his interest in the game was fully maintained.

D. Himmens, Esq.

G.B. writes:

Donald Himmens died on the fourth of October of an illness which he had been fighting all the year; yet it was typical of the man that only one week before his death he played two games of croquet in the day. His enthusiasm for the game was outstanding; he only played for two and a half seasons yet in that time he got his handicap down from 14 to —1 and was a worthy holder of the Apps Bowl for 1968.

All this year he was in great pain or discomfort but he continued to play with unabated zeal. His courage and determination won the admiration and affection of all who knew him. Southwick certainly won't seem the same without Don.

CROQUET ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENTS

The President's Cup

September 7th-11th

Manager: Lieut.-Col. G. E. Cave

The "Best Eight" were surely as worthy this season of the traditional description as any that has been assembled for many years. And the strength of their rivalry is indicated by the remarkable fact that for the last five years the trophy has been won by a different player. Previous to 1965 the competition had been dominated by our four times Champion of Champions, John Solomon, only Patrick Cotter and Humphrey Hicks once each interrupting an otherwise unbroken sequence of victories beginning in 1957. It was the youthful John Bolton who first broke that sequence, and it is unfortunate that absence from the game has not offered him this year another opportunity to repeat this challenge. But William Ormerod, Keith Wylie and Nigel Aspinall have done so and who could say in advance that no one of them would win again? Or that yet another might not do so. There is always room at the top in this contest, and perhaps never since the last war has this possibility seemed so evident. It is all for the good of the game that this should be so—as was very nearly proved on this occasion.

Another feature of the team this year was that for the first time for seven years a lady appeared in the lists. The last to do so with distinction was Ivy Wainwright of New Zealand (whose death, so early, we have sadly to lament). Her place on this occasion was taken by another from that Dominion, and it can be fairly claimed for Jean Jarden that she is now the finest lady player in the world, and at an age at which she might be the mother of several of those with whom she had to compete for this trophy. However she might fare, her presence and her beautiful style were bound to give a certain special distinction to the occasion.

MONDAY

The first morning produced three twenty-sixes—and an absent Champion. Keith Wylie's hosts, thinking he needed a good rest before playing, omitted to awaken him and he

arrived only at 11.10, "feeling", as he said, "as if he had run right across London". He then proceeded to play, against Patrick Cotter, a highly skilful and most interesting game which he was somewhat unlucky to lose, a bare patch in front of the penultimate producing what proved to be a just impossible hoop, though if it had been a normal 3½ one the shot he made would have been good enough to run it. Thus encouraged his opponent immediately picked up and finished a perfect triple peel, winning the game by four points. Solomon, one of the morning's "twenty-sixers", complete with triple, repeated his feat against Bray after lunch, Aspinall beat Wylie by 23, and in more even encounters Ormerod beat Cotter and Mrs. Jarden beat Perry. By the evening things began to even up though Solomon was the Man of the Day and the only player to win three games (which on last year's opening day nobody did). At close of play Aspinall (losing to Perry) and Mrs. Jarden who beat Ormerod, had two games, the other five competitors having to be content with one each. Wylie's rather long game against Bray included a repetition of the marvellous hoop jump he produced in the Championships, which largely contributed to his victory.

As is not uncommon on "first days", a rather high proportion of hoops was missed. Players who sometimes declare that "the narrow hoops make no difference" find this assumption unsupported by the facts, and are henceforward likely to treat these obstacles with increased respect in the following stages of the competition.

TUESDAY

A chilly morning was slightly improved after lunch by fitful sunshine resembling "the uncertain glory of an April day". Much of the play resembled the weather, glorious in patches but uncertain in the event. Wylie's games had a great deal of both; it was dismaying to find our brilliant Champion just failing so often to bring a happy issue out of all his afflictions. This was particularly true of his games against his most formidable rivals, Aspinall and Solomon, both of which he came very near to winning. Another who had a bad day was Roger Bray, who seemed to have quite lost the form which brought him his well-earned victory at the Hurlingham tournament. Mrs. Jarden had a very good win over Solomon by 25 in the morning and started well against Aspinall, but hardly started at all against Cotter, who collected two games during the day, as eventually did Perry in rather more deliberate fashion; his final victory over Ormerod was achieved only after nearly three hours of play. Taken as a whole, and with the notable exception of the two leaders, the form on this day was hardly up to the high standard appropriate to the event and normally characteristic of those now competing in it.

WEDNESDAY

There was no "glory" about the day's weather, which was more like January than April. It began with torrents of rain in which Aspinall, reluctant to get wet, polished off a rapid game, complete with triple, after Solomon had got hoop-bound after making the first point. Perry continuing a sequence of victories, and Wylie who looked like inaugurating one, were successful in this round, and Bray began to show what we know to be his true form. At the end of the first series the scores were: Aspinall six, Perry six, Solomon five, Cotter and Mrs. Jarden three, Bray, Ormerod and Wylie two.

By lunchtime the rain stopped, and the afternoon produced some very interesting games, the details of which were absorbing to watch but would take too much space to relate in full. Wylie had pegged out one of Cotter's balls but it looked at one point that Patrick, gaining the innings, would win the game, but a failure at four-back prevented this. Against Perry, Solomon was first round but found himself stymied in an attempt to make the sixth with his second ball, from which point Perry played with great precision, but when a skilful triple brought him to the rover hoop with victory in sight he over-approached it in an attempt to cannon his partner through. But Solomon failed to take much advantage of this and Perry was able to maintain his winning streak. But one of the finest combats of the week eventuated when Ormerod, coming right from behind and playing with great enterprise and precision, was laid to go out when his opponent, Aspinall, hit a very long shot and himself laid to finish, when Ormerod hit an equally long one and though by this time

Mrs. J. R. Carling

G.E.P.J. writes:

Grace Carling died last July. She was in her ninety-fourth year. Croquet had been one of her life-long passions.

This writer knew her for well over fifty years: at school with a son, life-long friend of her daughter's husband and so on: indeed Mrs. Carling enjoyed claiming that my interest in croquet stemmed from being taken to the Stevenage Croquet Club in the early 1920s. Certainly her prowess was at its height in those days, and she was a leading spirit in that Club.

Her daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and John Trustram, will be known to many players as they often delivered to or fetched Mrs. Carling from tournaments.

Since those First War days right up until last year she derived vast enjoyment from croquet; in fact she was a person who got vast enjoyment from just living. She was interested in, and ever ready to laugh about, all that went on around her. Indeed, if she had been of a less gay nature, less ready to see the fun and funny side of everyday things, she would probably have achieved a lower handicap, though she would not have had more enjoyment than she did.

Croquet needs great performers, record makers, and all that, but most of all it needs people who play because the game and the Croquet World amuse them. Happily there are many such—Mrs. Carling was a prime example.

left with only one ball, came very close to snatching the game, losing only by two points. This seemed to make Aspinall's position unassailable and he added another game to his score in the evening with a victory over Cotter. Bray continued his resurgence by a good win over Solomon who had a "gameless" day, and Perry his unbroken run of success by beating Mrs. Jarden, who was finding the boisterous conditions very hard to contend against.

THURSDAY

These conditions were even more formidable on this day, which brought less rain but chilly gale-force winds. There was a tremendous struggle in the morning between the "front runners", Aspinall and Perry, in which good play was sprinkled with errors of execution and (as some thought) of tactics. After nearly three hours' play all four clips were on the rover hoop. Perry was appearing to enjoy a charmed life in this week and it was he who emerged victorious by two points and by doing so achieved equality with Aspinall. In the next round, with Aspinall losing to Wylie, Perry went ahead with a victory over Bray; he had by now an unbroken series of nine wins. Solomon recaptured his form and had a good day; he executed a beautiful straight triple at the expense of Mrs. Jarden, more battered by the winds than ever. By nightfall the competition promised a very interesting conclusion. Among the spectators were two Open Champions of former days, Humphrey Hicks, and David Joseph whose title dates back to 1924.

FRIDAY

The weather took a turn for the better; there was no wind, and after lunch the sun shone and we were almost warm. The position at the top of the table was intriguing. Perry had his nose just in front, but he would probably have to win both his games to be sure of success; if he lost one and Aspinall won both there would be a tie. Solomon, if he won both and Perry won neither, would share second place. Aspinall had first to play Mrs. Jarden whom, on the form of the week, he might seem likely to defeat. But this he came very near failing to do. The lady showed no disposition to give way, played a plucky and skilful game and looked set to win until at 4-back, with her partner on the peg, she was seized with an uncharacteristic and unjustifiable attack of caution and refused little more than a yard shot at the hoop. Aspinall hovered in the middle distance and seemed to exercise a hypnotic effect for, at last, attempting a quite easy hoop, she ran it so badly that she could not hit her partner ball and had to retreat backwards through the hoop but did not do so far enough, leaving her ball in mid-court. This gave her opponent a short shot from baulk, on hitting which he ran out an easy, if fortunate, winner. Perry meanwhile had his eleventh consecutive win, against Ormerod. Solomon lost by a narrow margin to Wylie; Cotter beat Bray, coming from behind to win.

Aspinall had now to meet Solomon in what might have been expected to be a close game. In fact it was nothing of the kind, Nigel winning a quick game by 26. So now all seemed to turn on Perry's game against Cotter, who was first to get going but broke down at the sixth. From this Perry picked up a good break and all went well for him and he looked to have a good chance to get all round with his second ball, when two faulty strokes before making hoop 5 left him with a very angled position from which to attempt to score the point. In your reporter's opinion he was very unwise to make this hazardous attempt at all; in the event the ball skidded off to near hoop 1 for which Cotter's backward ball was. Cotter easily obtained the innings and from this moment proceeded to play faultlessly. He had, inevitably as things went, to leave Perry a number of long shots, but all of these failed, if often narrowly, and Cotter, making no mistake emerged a winner by a comfortable margin. A tie thus rendered necessary a play-off between Perry and Aspinall, a situation which had not occurred in this competition since 1956.

Perry's sequence of eleven victories was a remarkable achievement, and if his play in the later stages of this game seemed to fall off a little under stress this was very understandable. Aspinall, after receiving a check in the 9th to 11th rounds, and experiencing distinctly good fortune in being allowed to win his game in the 10th, was given the opportunity which might have seemed to be slipping away from him. Of the rest none of the competitors quite came up to our expectations of them. Solomon played as beautifully as we all know he can, at times, but appeared to flag at the end, and

throughout was too liable to miss his hoops. Wylie had some unlucky games; a few mistakes cost him very dear, but the fluency and precision of his game was always reminding us of the great master that he is, and his seven games won him a well deserved place in the top half of the contest. Bray, Cotter and Mrs. Jarden each collected five games. Roger did not always play with his usual zest and it seemed at times as if his heart was not fully engaged in the contest. Cotter gave the impression of being short of practice; he made far more mistakes than he would have done a few years ago, yet he too has the stamp of the master upon him, and his stroke production at its best is still magnificent. Mrs. Jarden was very much the victim of the savage weather in the middle of the competition, looking at one moment as if she might be blown away and at the next as if she would freeze to death. But she came near to winning several more games than she actually did, and there is no-one who hits ten-yard roquets with more confidence and accuracy than she does. Ormerod was another who looked as if he were short of practice; his capacity nowadays to keep a game alive is greater than his ability to win it. But not many players won a quick victory over him, and he is still a splendid long shot.

The evening sunshine induced a lot of onlookers to stay on to watch the first game of the play-off between Perry and Aspinall. Perry was the first to get away and all went well with his break until at hoop 1 a curious incident occurred. His partner ball had in fact made that hoop, but the Budleigh player, intent on the usual tactics adopted by our expert peelers, omitted to notice this and put himself to some pains to achieve the—superfluous—play. Having done so, he was so shaken by the discovery that he failed to get a satisfactory rush for 3-back and broke down, thus letting Aspinall in. This is always a dangerous thing to do, and though Perry was able to score a few hoops later on, Nigel won the game by 12 points.

The second game opened next morning in dreadful weather, and 'ere long the rain was so torrential that play had to be suspended altogether. Aspinall was first round, but Perry, hitting a fine long shot and playing with courage and enterprise, got as far as the penultimate, but in picking up his second break he left himself a little too far from hoop 5 which, as in his game with Cotter, defeated him. From the innings thus gained Aspinall went out with a triple. The play of both men in the atrocious conditions was remarkably good. At one point Richard Rothwell appeared with a dust-pan and a bucket and it was not so much as Chairman but as charwoman of the Tournament Committee that he not only authorized but enabled play to continue.

The presentation ceremony, dominated as usual by numerous decibels of aircraft noise, was performed by the Chairman of Council. With congratulations to the winner for his victory in successive years and to the runner-up for his wonderful sequence of eleven wins, Mr. Townsend went on to record, on behalf of all of us, a very deep sympathy for Col. Cave, who on the Wednesday became the victim of a heart attack. His place was taken by Jocelyn Sundius-Smith who filled the rôle with authority and efficiency in rather discouraging circumstances.



"I've been expecting this ever since the World Cup."

This cartoon by Baxter was published in *The Sun* on August 17th of this year. It is here reproduced by kind permission of Mr. Baxter and *The Sun* newspaper.

POSITION AND NAME	G. N. Aspinall	B. G. Perry	J. W. Solomon	K. F. Wylie	Mrs. J. Jarden	E. P. C. Cotter	Dr. R. W. Bray	Dr. W. P. Ormerod	WINS
1st G. N. Aspinall	+	-15	+25	+6	+16	+23	+17	+26	11
2nd B. G. Perry	+15	+	-26	+16	-11	+25	+14	+7	11
3rd J. W. Solomon	-25	+26	+	+4	-25	+25	+26	+26	8
4th K. F. Wylie	-6	-16	-4	+	+15	-4	+13	-15	7
5th Mrs. J. Jarden	-16	+11	+25	-15	+	+15	-24	+4	5
5th E. P. C. Cotter	-23	-25	-25	+4	+25	+	+11	-4	5
5th Dr. R. W. Bray	-17	-14	-26	-13	+26	-11	+	+15	5
8th Dr. W. P. Ormerod	-2	-3	-8	+11	-4	+10	-3	+	4

Play-off: G. N. Aspinall bt. B. G. Perry +12 +12

The Ladies' Field Cup

August 17th-21st—at Cheltenham

Manager: The Rev'd W. E. Gladstone

The first day went off smoothly, first game finished in an hour and a quarter, the second in an hour and a half. Miss Sessions, trying triples, and only missing by a whisker, had won three games before tea.

The Cheltenham lawns were very good indeed, and up to the day before had been fast, but torrential rain in the night had slowed them down, and made things a little difficult for those ladies who had played at Hurlingham in the previous week. However, Mrs. Jarden and Miss Warwick quickly gained touch, and both registered three wins.

Second day produced a bit of a headache for the manager, with two pegged-down games, time 7.15 p.m., and one lady involved in both. However, by a meticulous switch of one game to another lawn, both games were completed soon after 8 o'clock and all was well again. Mrs. Jarden continued her victorious progress with three wins, including one against the holder, Miss Warwick. Miss Sessions had two wins, one against the holder, in which she finished with a polished straight double peel. Against Mrs. Prichard, however, she lost touch after missing a short roquet, and was deservedly the loser. The touch was regained in the next game, which was the one against Miss Warwick.

The third day, weatherwise, was a horror, as it virtually rained all day, but the ladies battled with the elements nobly, and there was much very good croquet. Mrs. Jarden did a nice triple peel against Mrs. Simpson, but met her first defeat at the hands of Miss Sessions, who was in good form to win all three games again.

Mrs. Sundius-Smith had two good victories over Miss Warwick and Mrs. Longman, though the latter made a wonderful recovery, losing by only -6, when it looked like -26 at one time.

The day was enhanced by a victory for Mrs. Prichard to celebrate her son's, Colin's, twenty-first birthday. Colonel Prichard generously produced bottles of Krug 1959, in which Colin's health was warmly drunk.

Thursday was another cloudy day, with some drizzle, but not so cold as Wednesday. Miss Warwick ran Mrs. Jarden very close, who only won +7, but the notable game of the day was Mrs. Longman's win over Mrs. Jarden +5. So Miss Sessions, with three more wins, went into the lead. Mrs. Simpson lost two very close and well-fought games only -2 and -4, to Miss Sessions and Mrs. Sundius-Smith respectively. Players co-operated very well to play pegged-down games, and play went on till 8 o'clock.

Friday brought a return of the usual clement Cheltenham weather, and for the first time all four games were finished by 12.30 p.m., for Ladies and Manager to sit down to lunch together. Mrs. Jarden and Miss Sessions both won, so the latter kept her lead of one game. Mrs. Simpson had a notable win over Mrs. Longman, who had beaten Mrs. Jarden the day before; so all eyes in the afternoon were on Mrs. Jarden and Miss Sessions to see if there would have to be a play-off; and there had to be, for Mrs. Jarden revenged her first-series defeat of -14, by a +15 win. Then followed a most exciting game, with Miss Sessions getting to 4-back with her first break in very quick time. With the tension, both players missed the odd hoop and the odd short roquet, but then Mrs. Jarden got to 4-back, and Miss Sessions failed to hit in on her lift shot. Mrs. Jarden then immaculately went to the peg with her second ball, though we would have liked to see an attempt at a triple. Miss Sessions, who meanwhile had got to the fifth hoop, again narrowly missed the lift shot, and that was the end of that: a +12 victory for Mrs. Jarden. But what a great pair of players these are, -14 +15 +12 to Mrs. Jarden being the only difference* between them. It seems an ironic twist of Fate that the one lady was chosen for the President's Cup, the other not invited for the Chairman's Salver or the Surrey Cup.

It must be said that, with the return of better weather and faster courts, Mrs. Rotherham showed her best form, to register a +26 victory, only the second in the week.

By handicap Mrs. Sundius-Smith was rated seventh out of the eight ladies, and playing level she finished third, and was undoubtedly the most consistent player of the week.

*[Hardly "the only difference"—Miss Sessions had four single-figure wins (+1 +2 +3 and +8), while Mrs. Jarden had only two (+7 and +8)—EDITOR.]

POSITION AND NAME	Mrs. J. Jarden	Miss K. M. O. Sessions	Mrs. B. L. Sundius-Smith	Mrs. E. Rotherham	Mrs. W. Longman	Miss E. J. Warwick	Mrs. D. M. C. Prichard	Mrs. R. A. Simpson	WINS
1st Mrs. J. Jarden	+	-14	+14	+18	+25	+17	+25	+8	12
2nd Miss K. M. O. Sessions	+14	+	+10	+19	-5	+7	+12	+25	12
3rd Mrs. B. L. Sundius-Smith	-14	-14	+	-15	+8	+16	+14	+10	8
4th Mrs. E. Rotherham	-18	-16	+15	+	+12	-11	+9	-14	6
4th Mrs. W. Longman	-25	-16	-8	-12	+	-7	+14	+6	6
4th Miss E. J. Warwick	-17	-11	-16	+11	+7	+	+8	+24	6
7th Mrs. D. M. C. Prichard	-25	+4	-14	-6	-14	-8	+	-1	3
7th Mrs. R. A. Simpson	-8	-26	-10	+14	-6	-24	+1	+	3

Play-off: Mrs. J. Jarden bt. Miss K. M. O. Sessions +12

The Chairman's Salver

September 7th-11th—at Colchester

Manager: E. P. Duffield, Esq.

For the fifth year in which this event had been held, the venue was again the immaculate lawns at Colchester. A dry summer in that part of England allied to the gravelly soil, produced bare and very fast lawns, but the lawns could not be blamed for any deficiencies in the play, being as true as a billiard table and a great credit to those responsible for their care. Owing to the fast conditions, allied on several days to very strong winds, peeling of any denomination was rare, and only Murray (twice) even attempted a triple.

Play began in perfect conditions, with a Monday of continuous sun. First blood went to Fidler, with the only double peel of the week (though the peg-out failed) over Robinson, but he was soon followed by Stride. These two headed the

list with three each on the first day, but it was soon apparent from the ease and speed with which he was winning his matches that Stride was the likely winner. With accurate breaks, frequent hits-in, and unerring long roquets to rescue any short take-off, he came easily through his games. It was no surprise that he was concerned, on the winning side, in the two classic games of the week; first the three-turn game to 4-back peg and out which beat Cooper by 26; and second the game (A hits tice and goes to 4-back, B hits lift and goes to 4-back, A hits lift and goes to peg, B hits lift and pegs out A, A hits lift and goes out) with Newton on the second day. In no other game, except the one he lost to Murray, did he seem in danger of losing, and to win 13 games in competition of this class is an outstanding achievement.

Jackson preserved his remarkable record of never having been lower than second, having played in the event every time it has been held. His shooting was accurate, and characteristically he was willing to try a long roll or take-off to a hoop, frequently from behind, to establish a break. He seemed to be tiring on the third day when he lost the last two games, but came back strongly to win four of his last five. He hurt his right shoulder, almost immobilising his right arm, overnight on Thursday, but his play on Friday was, if anything, improved by this!

Fidler began the week well winning his first five games, but then faded, losing the next two and all three Thursday games. He seemed to lose confidence as the lawns speeded up, and in the tenth round gave Cooper his first win. It was noticeable that whereas he won five of his seven games on the two, slower, upper lawns, and lost five out of seven on the faster two, Lloyd-Pratt, the fast lawn specialist in this year's eight, won five of his seven wins on the faster pair.

The second half of the week produced most of the upsets, after the first series games had run true to form. This may have been partly due to the appallingly windy conditions; once, as a player stepped back to prepare for a croquet stroke, the balls were blown yards.

Murray's achievement was most impressive. Not having touched a mallet since last year's Surrey Cup he survived a close opening match with Lloyd-Pratt and then steadily gained confidence. With his mixture of adventurous breaks achieved by exciting coups, and deadly accurate two-ball breaks, he alone attempted triple peels, and was never easy game. A study of the score sheet reveals him as the most consistent player, after Stride; in hoops not scored Stride led with 23, followed by Murray 38, Jackson 52 and Fidler 74; in hoops not conceded Stride again led with 176, Murray was second with 126 and then came Fidler 112 and Jackson 71.

Of the others, Newton started slowly with a bad attack of hoopitis, but in his calm way won one game a day and had a big win over Fidler and ran Stride closer than anyone. Robinson frequently promised much, and on the Thursday lost to Jackson only through failing twice to hit the peg from a

short distance; he rarely seemed, however, to take much care over strokes, and frequently his best turns were marred by an apparently careless mistake. Cooper had a wretched start, losing his first nine games, many by wide margins: he seemed to be having eye-trouble and frequently miscued the ball completely, but on Thursday played a great game to come from behind and beat Fidler.

Although the main issue was settled early, competition was keen and there was a close tussle for second place.

Finally a word of thanks to the management and the Club members. Scarcely had a lawn been vacated than Mr. Duffield was to be seen testing hoops or balls, and the team were regaled to a series of delicious lunches and teas prepared by most skilful lady members.

Surrey Cup

September 7th-11th—at Nottingham

Manager: Miss E. C. Brumpton

The 1970 Surrey Cup was contested on the lawns of the Nottingham Croquet Club. Of the eight players initially selected, two, Miss Warwick and Hands, were unable to play—the former through injury and the latter through work commitment; their presence and play were missed. However, the reserves, Gladstone and Carlisle, as reserves often do, showed that they could compete with the others on at least equal terms, and finished high in the final placing. The other newcomer to the Eights events, Simpson, was unfortunately unable to find much form.

Hamilton-Miller was deservedly the winner, playing in the later stages with an extra authority which his opponents could not match. Having won only three of his first six games, he then won seven consecutive games to establish himself as outright winner, his loss in the second round being by then unimportant. Four players, Godby, Hallett, Gladstone and Carlisle, tied for second place. Godby had got off to a fine start but faltered in the final stages; eight victories from the first nine rounds is a very strong position in the Surrey Cup, but the last five games were lost, and the chance of winning gone. The weather conditions were appalling, on this occasion rain being only a minor problem compared with the extremely strong winds. The difficulty of playing in the wind probably contributed to the rather defensive play seen during the week. Players often seemed more concerned with the possibility of disaster than of success, an attitude of mind which can so easily produce its own justification.

Hallett provided some of the best play of the event, disposing of three opponents/victims on Thursday in about one hour each, and on Friday against Hamilton-Miller making an all-round break to the peg, with the fourth ball not yet on the lawn. The peg, or rather striking it, caused most of the players an unusual amount of difficulty throughout the week,

POSITION AND NAME	M. Stride	G. E. P. Jackson	P. J. M. Fidler	Dr. M. Murray	B. Lloyd-Pratt	P. Newton	J. N. Robinson	A. J. Cooper	WINS
1st M. Stride	+	+24	+16	+8	+20	+5	+10	+16	13
2nd G. E. P. Jackson	-24	+	-2	+6	+12	+11	+4	+4	9
3rd P. J. M. Fidler	-16	+2	+	+4	-14	+22	+15	+24	8
3rd Dr. M. Murray	-8	-6	-4	+	+3	+16	+25	+24	8
5th B. Lloyd-Pratt	-20	-12	+14	-3	+	+10	+17	+21	7
6th P. Newton	-12	+4	+22	-6	-9	+	-3	+4	5
7th J. N. Robinson	-10	-4	-15	-25	-17	-13	+	+3	4
8th A. J. Cooper	-16	-4	-24	-24	-21	-2	-3	+	2

POSITION AND NAME	D. J. V. Hamilton-Miller	R. A. Godby	The Rev'd W. E. Gladstone	P. D. Hallett	H. B. H. Carlisle	R. O. B. Whittington	Cdr. G. Borrett	R. A. Simpson	WINS
1st D. J. V. Hamilton-Miller	+	-4	-8	+9	+15	+11	-17	+9	10
2nd R. A. Godby	+4	+	-3	+17	+24	+7	+16	+12	8
2nd The Rev'd W. E. Gladstone	+8	+3	+	-9	+8	+4	+10	-6	8
2nd P. D. Hallett	-9	-17	+9	+	-2	-7	+15	+9	8
2nd H. B. H. Carlisle	-15	-24	-8	+2	+	-11	+5	+4	8
6th R. O. B. Whittington	-11	-7	-4	+7	+11	+	-8	+15	6
6th Cdr. G. Borrett	+17	-16	-10	-15	-5	+8	+	+2	6
8th R. A. Simpson	-9	-12	+6	-9	-4	-15	-2	+	2

As It Was



DEVONSHIRE PARK, 1902



Photographs by courtesy of the Compton Archives

The Open Champion, 1970



Jocelyn Sundius-Smith

K. F. WYLIE with the Championship Trophies

In the centre is the Coronation Cup, subscribed for by Associates in 1911, and on the left, the historic Ayres Cup, presented by Messrs. F. H. Ayres in 1897, and now awarded to the runner-up. On the right can be seen the two Doubles Championship Cups, presented in 1924 by M. B. Reckitt, Esq., and the late G. L. Reckitt, Esq. The Association Plate, presented by the late W. Longman, Esq., in 1925, is behind the Ayres Cup.

The Lady Champion, 1970



Nigel Aspinall

MRS. J. JARDEN (r.) receiving her Trophies from Mrs. Rotherham

The previous holder is handing to the lady from New Zealand the Silver Bowl, presented by the *Ladies' Field* in 1897, and the Gold Casket, presented by the late Viscount Doneraile in 1909. In addition to these trophies, the winner of the Ladies' Championship receives a locket, presented by Lord Doneraile in 1932, and a Gold Badge that is our only relic to survive from the distant pre-Revival years of the 1870s.

Salute to a Veteran!

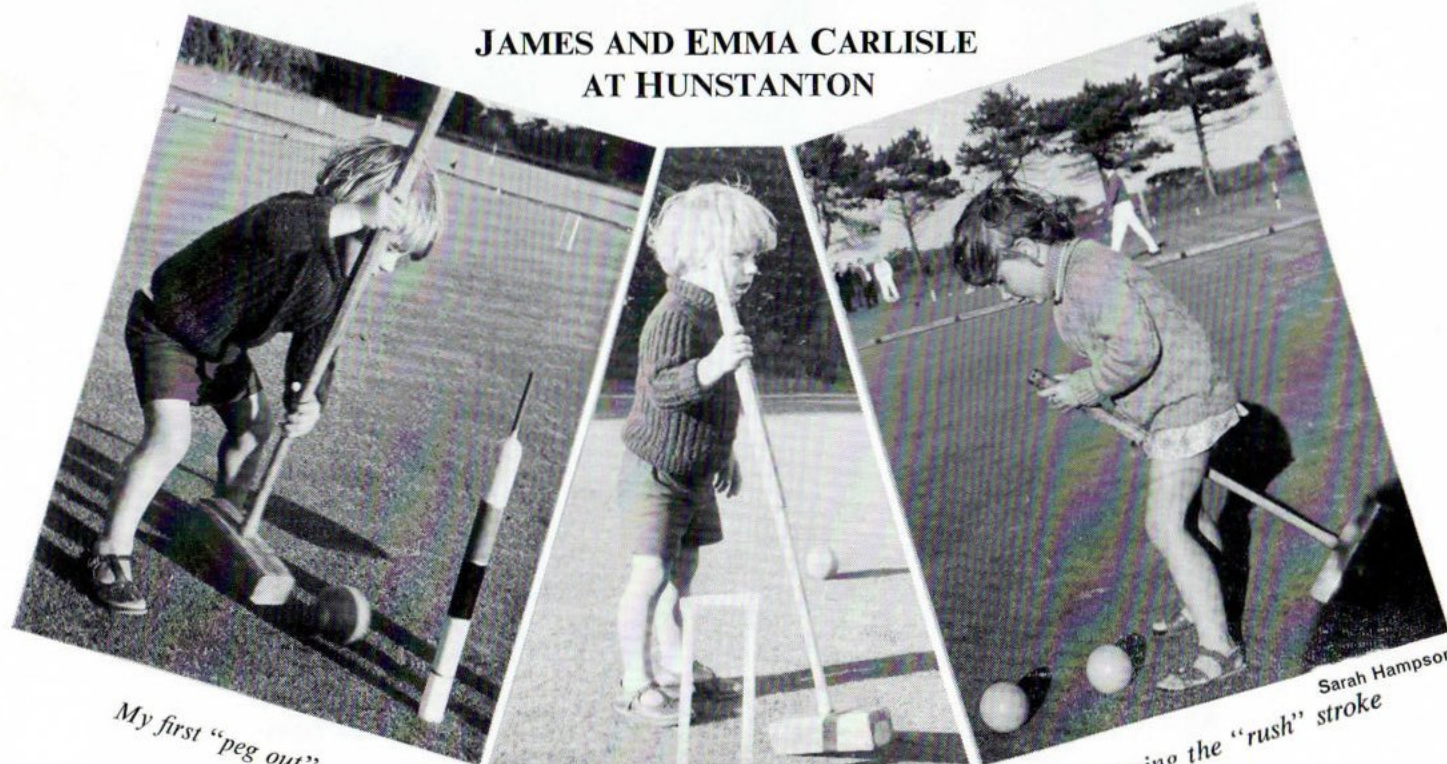


Nigel Aspinall.

MISS BARTLETT, at the age of ninety-two, won, with R. O. Hicks, the Doubles at the Roehampton Open Tournament this year.

Looking to the Future

JAMES AND EMMA CARLISLE
AT HUNSTANTON



My first "peg out"

"Surely that hit?"

Learning the "rush" stroke
Sarah Hampson

peg-outs and rushes to the peg being missed from very short distances on numerous occasions.

Thanks were due to Mrs. Ward for her tireless efforts in preparing lunches and teas, to Miss Brumpton and Bushnell for successfully managing and refereeing the tournament, and to those players' wives and other spectators who turned out to encourage the competitors in their struggles.

The Champion of Champions

September 13th

The contest, as a contest, was rather disappointing because it was too one-sided. The substantial reason for this was that Solomon could not miss and Wylie could not hit. This was not entirely true because Solomon missed a long return roquet and Wylie hit the last lift shot, only to make nothing of it; but the openings in both games were interesting and illustrate the above point. Strangely enough Wylie played the first ball on both occasions, and on each such occasion played it into corner IV. In the first game Solomon laid a tice about peg deep. Wylie shot at it and missed, the third ball coming to rest near the yard line about opposite the second hoop. Solomon fearlessly shot at the tice ball. Nose of ball met nose of ball with that resounding thud that jars the nerves of the most phlegmatic adversary. In the second game Solomon shot at Wylie's ball in corner IV and hit. On this occasion Solomon tried to make the first hoop, splitting the other ball a few yards in front of the second hoop. He failed to obtain position and naturally played his ball to a tice position on the East boundary. This was a shorter tice, slightly deep of the penultimate. Wylie shot at it and missed. Then Solomon shot at it and hit. Thus as a result of these two openings the tally was three hits for Solomon and two misses for Wylie. Hereafter the first game only is described. The tice ball came to rest almost next to Wylie's ball, so Solomon was smartly off to a three-ball break. He picked up the fourth ball whilst playing hoop 4 and was nicely in position in front of hoop 5 with a four-ball break when disaster overtook him. For no apparent reason he stuck in the hoop. This gave Wylie the chance without the necessity of hitting in. He played simple but immaculate croquet whilst making the first four hoops. At this stage he had an adversary ball and his partner ball in a position near hoop 1 with the obvious intention of lying up for the sextuple. He then took off for the hoop ball which was upwards of two yards East of hoop 5. This was his first careless stroke. Instead of getting a rush, he roqueted it about two feet further away. His displeasure at himself was obvious. One careless shot was followed by another for he was slightly short in his approach and he in turn stuck in hoop 5. So the break was handed back. Solomon came on to the court and pondered for some time before playing the ball which was for hoop 5. Admittedly it was easy for him to have made a break with either ball, but his play whilst making hoops 5 and 6 and preparing for 1-back seemed at first sight positively bad. Finally he roqueted his partner ball to about five feet in front of 1-back. At this stage one adversary ball was a couple of feet from the boundary behind 2-back and the other adversary ball near the East boundary approximately opposite 3-back. Then all became clear, and I, for one, silently apologised to him. He put his ball in the jaws of 1-back lying for the sextuple. Wylie shot at the ball near the East boundary and missed and the way was clear for Solomon. Naturally the first peel presented no difficulty. He attempted the second peel, but his ball bounced back still in position. He made the first two hoops and was still in command when in position for hoop 3. One of Wylie's balls was three to four yards behind hoop 3 and the other the same distance from corner IV. Solomon then ran hoop 3 without touching the wire. The result was a long return roquet and he missed. Wylie shot the ball near corner IV at the ball in position for 2-back. Again he missed. Solomon ran 2-back and then took the long diagonal shot at the ball behind hoop 3. There was another resounding thud. At this stage his forward ball was for 3-back and his backward ball was for hoop 4. He made 3-back and laid up for his partner ball near corner IV. Wylie's balls were separated wide of hoops 2 and 3. Wylie took the cross-court shot and again missed. That was the end. Solomon ran out with a triple peel.

K. F. Wylie w.o. G. N. Aspinall (opp. scr.)
(Open Champion) (Holder of President's Cup)

Final
J. W. Solomon (Holder of Stoker Bowl) bt. K. F. Wylie
+22 +25

All England Handicap Finals

September 26th—at Roehampton

Manager: Miss D. A. Lintern

The Quarter, Semi and Finals were again all completed on the one day at Roehampton on the Club's slow but lovely lawns, and under the charming but firm direction of Miss Lintern.

The outstanding game of the morning session was perhaps that between Mr. Solomon and Mr. Gladstone, the latter receiving five bisques from the Champion of Champions. Mr. Gladstone had obviously thought out a plan of campaign, which needed five minutes of Mr. Solomon's expert consideration to contest. Mr. Gladstone being put in by his opponent, sent his red ball to two yards S.E. of the peg, and Mr. Solomon finally, and surprisingly, shot for it, and failing to hit went into the third corner. This saved Mr. Gladstone an initial bisque, who proceeded to send blue to hoop 2, obtained a rush on his own ball to hoop 1, and thus started a three-ball break without using a bisque, much to his own surprise. All went well until he developed an attack of nervous hoopitis and just squandered four bisques in going to the peg. He left a rush for his second ball to the final hoop up by the second corner, and his opponent by the peg. Mr. Solomon playing the fourth ball into the court just nicked the ball, which was the first of only three very slightly imperfect shots, and then he went almost impeccably to the peg and pegged out his opponent and himself. Meantime he had peeled his second ball through hoops 1 and 2 and half through 3. Mr. Gladstone shot slowly and straight for the ball in the hoop, but was six inches short, and bang went his last bisque, and from then the result was a foregone conclusion.

While this hour's excitement was going on, Mr. MacLean, receiving three bisques from Mr. Soutter, had both clips on the peg, with his opponent both on two. Mr. Soutter then had a good spell of hitting in, and Mr. MacLean failing to get a satisfactory rush to the peg, the game went on for another hour and a quarter before victory came for Scotland. Dour struggles on the other two courts resulted in wins for Mr. Tyrwhitt-Drake and Professor Neal.

So the afternoon entertainment for the many and keen spectators was Solomon v. Neal with one bisque between them, and Tyrwhitt-Drake v. MacLean with 8½ bisques in it. Mr. Solomon broke down twice at the final hoop, which catastrophe was seized upon by Professor Neal, who with his one bisque went on for a good win. On the other court Mr. MacLean, showing untraditional lack of thrift, used no less than six bisques, and had only made three hoops when he let his opponent have a go, and it is believed retired to a corner to pray to his national deities, and prayer was swiftly answered, for Mr. Tyrwhitt-Drake failed to make the third hoop, and the Scot was suddenly inspired and proceeded with his remaining bisques to finish off the game convincingly.

Thus the final could be played after tea, with Neal v. MacLean receiving eleven bisques. Three were used to get the first ball to penultimate, when the Professor found himself with a ball wired from everything, his other ball in B baulk, and opponent's two balls waiting at hoop 1. A gift indeed from the English gods! All went immaculately until Prof. Neal failed three times to peel his opponent through penultimate, and finally was hoop-bound at 2-back. Mr. MacLean got in again with using one of his remaining eight bisques, and using them somewhat profligately, went on to win comfortably, even so with two or three bisques in hand.

Once again then the trophy, albeit the All England Trophy, went to Scotland. Miss Lintern in presenting the prizes commented on Scottish croquet and handicaps in particular, and Mr. MacLean in reply said he would not like to say much about Scottish croquet, but sportingly conceded that the Scottish handicappers were very good for the Scots!

1st Round

J. W. Solomon (Hurlingham) (-5) bt. The Rev'd W. E. Gladstone (Cheltenham) (0) +9.
Prof. B. G. Neal (Roehampton) (-4) bt. G. S. Digby (Colchester) (8) +13.
R. N. MacLean (Glenochil) (7) bt. J. H. J. Soutter (Caversham) (5) +18.
E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake (Compton) (-1½) bt. K. A. Ross (Edgbaston) (1) +14.

Semi-Final

Prof. Neal (-4) bt. J. W. Solomon (-5) +20.
R. N. MacLean (7) bt. E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake (-1½) +26.

Final

R. N. MacLean (Glenochil) (7) bt. Prof. Neal (-4) +18.

Devonshire Park

September 28th - October 10th

Managers: Major J. H. Dibley, M.C., Miss D. A. Lintern
and Mrs. G. F. H. Elvey

It was a disappointment that a summer of burgeoning entries should end with a rather meagre attendance for the first week at Devonshire Park. When presenting the Prizes our President spoke with affection of this historic tournament: it has survived two World Wars—he himself has been playing here since 1907—and it is unthinkable that it should fail or be played elsewhere. He also praised famous managers and in particular Major Dibley who once more had taken charge with grace—but without favour.

Those who did congregate, "single-minded like migratory birds", would like to see the programme made more flexible to give more play when the numbers are down. A full game in the Doubles with no time limit was an idea much canvassed. The standard of play in the "B" Levels was so high that it might well be given Two Lives. The winner, Col. Wheeler, was forced to produce his best form. In contrast many of the "A" Class played like mice studying to be rats. Not so the two winners: Dr. Wiggins streaked through the Draw (scorning the Process) to meet Miss Sessions, who had captivated us all with her David-like toppling of Tyrwhitt-Drake and Cooper. In the play-off, however, Kitty's slings missed, and Dr. Wiggins retained the Championship: I doubt that there is a better rusher in the game. Jackson and Williams had played well in many events—perhaps too many—and ultimate success eluded them.

Mr. Walker is a talented beginner: he plays fluently and intelligently, but Mrs. Wood was no whit daunted and was modestly delighted to lift the Luard Cup from him. Walker with Mrs. Walker seemed unbeatable in the Doubles—they reeled off three matches in an aggregate of four hours—but again failed to strike form in the final and fell to the relaxed—almost gay—partnership of Mrs. Speer and Tucker. Tucker was the form player of the week, as he also won the big Handicap: his play has advanced considerably since last year. A welcome visitor from Aberdeen was Mr. Middleton: like other Scottish raiders he returned with a trophy. I wonder when this tournament last took place without a single visitor from Ireland?

Despite the *fainéance* of the C.A. Publicity Committee the mid-Sunday Exhibition took place. Harris of Compton made excellent *ad hoc* arrangements; Col. Prichard stepped into the commentator's rôle and Cooper, Mrs. Meachem, Miss Sessions and Harris produced to perfection Croquet to attract beginners.

It took two Managers to fill the big hole left by Col. Cave and very well they did it too: it is the great number of events which makes this tournament so exhausting to run. The "XYZ" Restricted Handicap does not seem to attract the middle and long bisquers and the entries for this event were down (while those for the Opens were appreciably up). It may be that a "B" Opens and a "C" Handicap with a two life system might give a greater sense of urgency and importance. The big Handicap is the only event in which the two streams meet, and with three-quarters of the players being eliminated in the two rounds played on Monday there is always a clamour for a "Y": perhaps this could be put in the programme instead of the Plate. The final of the Handicap was a very fine game between Harris, who progressed without an upward look of caution, and Col. Wheeler, who hit in relentlessly and played attacking croquet, belying his mordant self-mockery.

In the Open Doubles Harris and Gladstone were unlucky to lose to the eventual winners of the Cup by playing the wrong ball. Lloyd-Pratt and Hopewell reached the Final—and nearly won it—on a successful manoeuvre repeated: with the opponents on 4-back and peg Lloyd-Pratt plays his lifted ball a few inches out of corner I. In the first match Mrs. Prichard got hoop-bound at penultimate, in the next Miss Sessions stuck there: unbelievably Mrs. Rotherham did exactly the same in the Final. But she and Hamilton Miller retrieved the position and, with an inimitable exposition of togetherness, they won.

To describe a match is like attempting to tattoo a soap bubble; suffice it to say that one Opens match between Col. Prichard and Harris was a series of lightning flashes and compelling excitement. Col. Prichard went on to dispatch Lloyd-Pratt by 25 but in the Final against Cooper (whom he had beaten in the Draw) he could not recapture this fine form.

The Play-Off was one-sided until Lloyd-Pratt failed to make 4-back after peeling his partner ball there. Cooper had not been shooting well but, being let in, it was only due to an unwonted error in a hoop approach that Lloyd-Pratt got back in and scrambled home. Lloyd-Pratt had one successful triple peel (so did Hopewell) while Cooper produced remarkable form in the big Handicaps in both weeks, reaching a final and a semi-final.

Miss Sessions's easy but evanescent brilliance could not sustain her beyond the two semi-finals, leaving the Women's Championship between Mrs. Rotherham, Miss Warwick and Mrs. Longman. The meetings of these three personalities, who have for so long towered over other women croquet players, are like the contact of chemical substances: they react on each other but the solution is not always precipitated! Mrs. Longman had played consistently well to reach both finals but with night coming and friends going she wisely agreed to share with Miss Warwick who had crashed her way to the Final by sheer determination.

Four women dominated the Handicap stream: Mrs. Meachem with her fearless freedom of stroke; Mrs. Walker who is more accurate but crouches so low that her chin is in constant danger; Mrs. Povey whose consistency at hitting middle-distance shots has raised her game, and Mrs. Cane who does not get enough croquet to realise her full potential. Col. Vulliamy is suffering at present from "*rallentando*"; with a return to "*allegro*" he will recapture his remarkable skill.

It gave their friends much pleasure to see Lady Ursula Abbey and Captain Buller at Devonshire Park once more. Perhaps it was the glorious sunsets that made us think so often about the *dramatis personae* of the recent past: Aimée Reckitt, Handel Elvey, Willie Longman, Leslie Kirk-Greene, Margaret Macaulay and Jack Abbey; and, even more recent, Nancy Perry and Don Himmens. If affection is immortality, then they were still there.

EVENT I (19 entries)

Jonides Cup

(OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND)

DRAW

1st Round

Mrs. E. Rotherham bt. Mrs. D. M. C. Prichard +9.
Mrs. W. Longman bt. D. A. Harris +3.
Mrs. A. Fotiadi bt. Mrs. G. F. H. Elvey +4.

2nd Round

Miss E. J. Warwick bt. His Hon. Judge A. D. Karmel +15.
Cdr. G. Borrett bt. J. G. Warwick +16.
G. E. P. Jackson bt. E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake +16.
Mrs. Longman bt. Mrs. Rotherham +4.
Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins bt. Mrs. Fotiadi +21.
A. J. Cooper bt. Miss K. M. O. Sessions +15.
D. J. V. Hamilton-Miller bt. Lieut.-Col. D. M. C. Prichard +24.

G. Williams bt. Mrs. H. F. Chittenden +6.

3rd Round

Miss Warwick bt. Cdr. Borrett +13.
G. E. P. Jackson bt. Mrs. Longman +17.
Dr. Wiggins bt. A. J. Cooper +14.
D. J. V. Hamilton-Miller bt. G. Williams +13.

Semi-Final

G. E. P. Jackson bt. Miss Warwick +24.
Dr. Wiggins bt. D. J. V. Hamilton-Miller +22.

Final

Dr. Wiggins bt. G. E. P. Jackson +14.

PROCESS

Final

Miss Sessions bt. A. J. Cooper +26.

PLAY-OFF

Dr. Wiggins bt. Miss Sessions +23.

EVENT II (14 entries)

O'Callaghan Gold Cup

(GENTLEMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND)

DRAW

1st Round

J. G. Warwick bt. P. L. Gifford-Nash +5.
B. Lloyd-Pratt bt. Cdr. Borrett +5.
D. J. V. Hamilton-Miller bt. D. A. Harris +14.
C. G. Hopewell bt. The Rev'd W. E. Gladstone +3.
Col. Prichard bt. A. J. Cooper +7.
E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake bt. Col. G. T. Wheeler +11.

2nd Round

R. A. Simpson bt. J. G. Warwick +1.
B. Lloyd-Pratt bt. D. J. V. Hamilton-Miller +26.
C. G. Hopewell bt. Col. Prichard +25.
E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake bt. G. Williams +26.

Semi-Final

B. Lloyd-Pratt bt. R. A. Simpson +25.
E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake bt. C. G. Hopewell +6.

Final

B. Lloyd-Pratt bt. E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake +24.

PROCESS

Final

A. J. Cooper bt. Col. Prichard +16.

PLAY-OFF

B. Lloyd-Pratt bt. A. J. Cooper +3.

EVENT III (12 entries)

Franc Cup

(LADIES' CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND)

DRAW

1st Round

Mrs. N. A. C. McMillan bt. Mrs. Prichard +14.
Miss Warwick bt. Mrs. Fotiadi +10.
Mrs. R. A. Simpson bt. Mrs. E. Temple +6.
Miss Sessions bt. Mrs. Elvey +20.

2nd Round

Mrs. B. L. Sundius-Smith bt. Mrs. Chittenden +20.
Miss Warwick bt. Mrs. McMillan +25.
Miss Sessions bt. Mrs. Simpson +10.
Mrs. Longman bt. Mrs. Rotherham +18.

Semi-Final

Miss Warwick bt. Mrs. Sundius-Smith +10.
Mrs. Longman bt. Miss Sessions +15.

Final

Miss Warwick bt. Mrs. Longman +12.

PROCESS

Final

Mrs. Longman bt. Mrs. Rotherham +6.

PLAY-OFF

Mrs. Longman and Miss Warwick divided.

EVENT IV (12 pairs)

The Victor Vases

(DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND)

1st Round

D. J. V. Hamilton-Miller & Mrs. Rotherham bt. Mrs. Chittenden & Mrs. McMillan +10.
Cdr. Borrett & Mrs. Longman bt. J. G. Warwick & E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake +6.
P. L. Gifford-Nash & Mrs. Fotiadi bt. G. Williams & Mrs. Sundius-Smith +7.
Col. Wheeler & Miss Sessions bt. R. A. & Mrs. Simpson +9.

2nd Round

Rev. W. E. Gladstone & D. A. Harris bt. A. J. Cooper & Miss Warwick +5.
D. J. V. Hamilton-Miller & Mrs. Rotherham bt. Cdr. Borrett & Mrs. Longman +2.
Col. Wheeler & Miss Sessions bt. P. L. Gifford-Nash & Mrs. Fotiadi +7.
B. Lloyd-Pratt & C. G. Hopewell bt. Col. & Mrs. Prichard +3.

Semi-Final

D. J. V. Hamilton-Miller & Mrs. Rotherham bt. Rev. W. E. Gladstone & D. A. Harris +2.
B. Lloyd-Pratt & C. G. Hopewell bt. Col. Wheeler & Miss Sessions +3.

Final

D. J. V. Hamilton-Miller & Mrs. Rotherham bt. B. Lloyd-Pratt & C. G. Hopewell +5.

EVENT V (8 entries)

Devonshire Park Salver

1st Round

Mrs. J. B. Meachem bt. E. J. Tucker +3.
Col. Wheeler bt. Miss D. A. Lintern +8.
Mrs. J. Walker bt. Mrs. Temple +16.
Mrs. G. W. Solomon bt. Miss H. D. Parker +12.

Semi-Final

Col. Wheeler bt. Mrs. Meachem +5.
Mrs. Walker bt. Mrs. Solomon +8.

Final

Col. Wheeler bt. Mrs. Walker +16.

EVENT VI (7 entries)

Luard Cup

1st Round

Mrs. J. Povey bt. G. Scott-Page +6.
Mrs. G. H. Wood bt. M. B. Reckitt +11.
R. J. Walker bt. Mrs. H. G. Hall +16.

Semi-Final

Mrs. Wood bt. Mrs. Povey +21.
R. J. Walker bt. Miss M. Bryan +18.

Final

Mrs. Wood bt. R. J. Walker +4.

EVENT VII (2 entries)

Trevor Williams Cup

L. Middleton (7) bt. Mrs. D. Waterhouse (12) +3 +8.

EVENT VIII (35 entries)

Sussex Challenge Cup

Quarter-Final

G. Williams (-1) bt. D. A. Harris (0) +3.
A. J. Cooper (-3½) bt. Mrs. Fotiadi (0) +20.
Mrs. Meachem (2½) bt. Mrs. Hall (5½) +6.
E. J. Tucker (3) bt. Mrs. Prichard (-1½) +15.

Semi-Final

A. J. Cooper (-3½) bt. G. Williams (-1) +4.
E. J. Tucker (3) bt. Mrs. Meachem (2½) +20.

Final

E. J. Tucker (3) bt. A. J. Cooper (-3½) +26.

EVENT IX (17 pairs)

HANDICAP DOUBLES

Semi-Final

R. J. & Mrs. Walker (7) bt. G. Williams & Mrs. Hall +7.
E. J. Tucker & Mrs. M. Speer (6) bt. Cdr. Borrett & Mrs. Temple +7.

Final

E. J. Tucker & Mrs. Speer (6) bt. R. J. & Mrs. Walker (7) +4.

EVENT X (15 entries)

Felix Cup

1st Round

Mrs. Povey (4½) bt. M. B. Reckitt (5) +14.
D. M. Horne (5) bt. Mrs. Waterhouse (12) +18.
Lady Ursula Abbey (2) bt. Mrs. Walker (2½) +6.
Capt. M. F. Buller (½) bt. Col. E. L. L. Vulliamy (3) +8.
Mrs. Meachem (2½) bt. Miss Parker (2½) +24.
Dr. M. D. Nosworthy (14) bt. Mrs. M. Cane (10) +3.
Miss Bryan (6) bt. Miss Lintern (2½) +7.

2nd Round

Mrs. Povey (4½) bt. D. M. Horne (5) +18.
Capt. Buller (½) bt. Lady Ursula Abbey (2) +2.
Mrs. Meachem (2½) bt. Dr. Nosworthy (14) +16.
Miss Bryan (6) bt. Mrs. Solomon (1) +23.

Semi-Final

Mrs. Povey (4½) bt. Capt. Buller (½) +17.
Mrs. Meachem (2½) bt. Miss Bryan (6) +9.

Final

Mrs. Meachem (2½) bt. Mrs. Povey (4½) +12.
Consolation event ("Y") won by: Col. Vulliamy (3).

Runner-up: Mrs. Cane (10).

EVENT XI (39 entries)

Sussex Union Cup

Semi-Final

Col. Wheeler (0) bt. P. L. Gifford-Nash (1) +22.
D. A. Harris (0) bt. A. J. Cooper (-3½) +11.

Final

Col. Wheeler (0) bt. D. A. Harris (0) +10.

EVENT XII (6 pairs)

RESTRICTED HANDICAP DOUBLES

1st Round

Capt. Buller & Mrs. Cane (10½) bt. Mrs. Solomon & Mrs. Povey (5½) +8.
M. B. Reckitt & Miss Parker (6½) bt. Mrs. Temple & Miss Brian (8) +13.

Semi-Final

Capt. Buller & Mrs. Cane (10½) bt. Col. Vulliamy & D. M. Horne (8) +6.
Mrs. Meachem & Mrs. Walker (5) bt. M. B. Reckitt & Miss Parker (6½) +16.

Final

Mrs. Meachem & Mrs. Walker (5) bt. Capt. Buller & Mrs. Cane (10½) +23.

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENTS

Nottingham

August 17th - 22nd

Manager: B. Lloyd-Pratt, Esq.

In contrast to the rather disappointing numbers last year there was a strong entry this time. Miss D. Morgan and Col. A. E. Saalfeld came from Australia. Mr. H. O. Hicks returned after an absence of some years, and there were two young players in their first tournament who both reached finals. It was a pleasure to see the President, Mr. H. O. Hodgson, still playing in his 65th season.

Bryan Lloyd-Pratt very kindly came to manage the tournament at short notice and bullied the players charmingly. "Come on Dorothy, my dear, go and beat Peter on Court 4." Not only did he get the finals finished with an hour to spare before prize-giving, but he had the knack of putting interesting games on the court nearest the Club-house. Deck-chair experts were treated to "lots of lovely doubles" and to games where the backward player refused to lie down and be dead. In one game Paul Puxon beat Mrs. Bucknell +1 after nail-biting agonies of short roquets missed and blopped hoops on both sides. The spectators groaned at these audibly but cheered each hit-in wildly.

Although no play was lost because of torrential rain, games were often played in drizzle. The sun never came out sufficiently for our manager to wear his Mexican summer hat with the blue band.

A tournament tends to stick in the memory because of certain amusing and often ridiculous incidents. In the latter category comes a shot at the peg from three inches away which missed. Paul Puxon, a strong hitter, had the ambition to break a boundary board, but only managed to crack his mallet. He borrowed Maud Brumpton's new one to carry on the game with. She refused to come into tea, preferring to watch and see he did not break hers too!

H. O. Hicks demonstrated how easily a player can retrieve an almost lost game. Martin Bushnell was for peg and 4-back and he had not started. Hicks hit the last shot, went round and pegged out his opponent. Bushnell had a few long shots after the contact but never got further than penultimate.

The lawns were damp and heavy most of the time, so it was not surprising that all the victories were with youth. Paul Hands fought his way to four finals, won the Opens against Martin Bushnell, and the Doubles with Paul Puxon against Lesley Henshaw and Martin Bushnell, but lost the "Robin Hood" to the holder, David Nichols, and the "X" to John Wheeler. Wheeler had two bisesques left to peg out with after going round twice using only one bique. The "5-bisques-and-over" was won by Alexander Hermon playing in his first tournament, but he was beaten in the "Y" by Peter Elmes.

No report can be complete without mentioning the excellent lunches and teas. The Stilton cheese was savaged repeatedly by two greedy young men, and pronounced excellent. That the tournament was such a happy event was due to the great deal of work done by the Club members and the groundsmen.

EVENT I (22 entries)

"Robin Hood" Gold Cup

DRAW

1st Round

G. Birch (-1) bt. H. O. Hicks (-5) +6.
P. B. Puxon (9) bt. Miss E. M. Brumpton (4½) +12.
J. A. Wheeler (1) w.o. H. O. Hodgson (2) (opp. scr.).
Mrs. A. Neville Rolfe (1½) bt. Mrs. A. J. Bucknell (12) +13.
Lieut.-Col. A. E. Saalfeld (-1) bt. G. Henshaw (6½) +12.
P. W. Elmes (-1) bt. Miss D. Morgan (0) +23.

2nd Round

P. W. Hands (-2) bt. Miss E. C. Brumpton (3½) +5.
C. G. Hopewell (-1) w.o. B. Lloyd-Pratt (-3) (opp. scr.).
G. Birch (-1) bt. Miss J. K. Samuel (7) +11.
J. A. Wheeler (1) bt. P. B. Puxon (9) +13.
Col. Saalfeld (-1) bt. Mrs. Neville Rolfe (1½) +9.
P. W. Elmes (-1) bt. C. W. Haworth (2½) +4.
Dr. D. I. Nichols (0) bt. M. J. Bushnell (-1½) +13.
E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake (-1½) bt. A. J. Bucknell (3) +9.

3rd Round

P. W. Hands (-2) bt. C. G. Hopewell (-1) +23.
J. A. Wheeler (1) bt. G. Birch (-1) +12.
Col. Saalfeld (-1) bt. P. W. Elmes (-1) +3.
Dr. Nichols (0) bt. E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake (-1½) +13.

Semi-Final

P. W. Hands (-2) bt. J. A. Wheeler (1) +9.
Dr. Nichols (0) bt. Col. Saalfeld (-1) +19.

Final

Dr. Nichols (0) bt. P. W. Hands (-2) +17.

EVENT II (16 entries)

Nottingham Championship

DRAW

1st Round

Miss Morgan bt. A. J. Bucknell +11.
E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake bt. Mrs. Neville Rolfe +24.
Dr. Nichols bt. H. O. Hicks +14.
J. A. Wheeler bt. C. W. Haworth +12.
P. W. Hands bt. P. W. Elmes +21.
G. Birch bt. Col. Saalfeld +6.
M. J. Bushnell bt. B. Lloyd-Pratt +4.
C. G. Hopewell w.o. H. O. Hodgson (opp. scr.).

2nd Round

Miss Morgan bt. E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake +1.
Dr. Nichols bt. J. A. Wheeler +12.
P. W. Hands bt. G. Birch +17.
M. J. Bushnell bt. C. G. Hopewell +17.

Semi-Final

Miss Morgan bt. Dr. Nichols +6.
M. J. Bushnell bt. P. W. Hands +13.

Final

M. J. Bushnell bt. Miss Morgan +11.

PROCESS

Final

P. W. Hands bt. P. W. Elmes +17.

PLAY-OFF

P. W. Hands bt. M. J. Bushnell +16.

EVENT III (6 entries)

Handicap Cup

1st Round

P. B. Puxon (10) bt. Mrs. C. Chamberlain (10) +8.
R. A. G. Hermon (6*) bt. G. Henshaw (6½) +8.

Semi-Final

P. B. Puxon (10) bt. Mrs. Bucknell (12) +1.
R. A. G. Hermon (6*) bt. Miss Samuel (7) +13.

Final

R. A. G. Hermon (6*) bt. P. B. Puxon (10) +2.

EVENT IV (23 entries)

Wadsworth Cup

Semi-Final

P. W. Hands (-2) bt. A. J. Bucknell (3) +15.
J. A. Wheeler (1) bt. Miss Samuel (7) +23.

Final

J. A. Wheeler (1) bt. P. W. Hands (-2) +26.

Consolation event ("Y") won by: P. W. Elmes (-1).

Runner-up: R. A. G. Hermon (5).

EVENT V (12 pairs)

Doubles Cups

Semi-Final

P. W. Hands & P. B. Puxon (7) bt. C. G. Hopewell & Mrs. Neville Rolfe (4) +15.
M. J. Bushnell & Miss Henshaw (12½) bt. E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake & Mrs. Haworth (12½) +18.

Final

P. W. Hands & P. B. Puxon (7) bt. M. J. Bushnell & Miss Henshaw (12½) +16.

Brighton

August 24th - 29th

Manager: Major J. H. Dibley, M.C.

The tournament basked in the most beautiful weather throughout the whole week. The only disadvantage it brought in its train was very fast and sometimes treacherous courts. A few players were notable for their ability to play consistently well under these conditions, in particular M. Stride, winner of the Opens, and K. A. Ross, winner of the "B" levels and big handicap. The entry this year was very large and all Major Dibley's skill in management was required to get the tournament through.

The Opens boasted three Chairman's Salver players and one President's Cup player. P. Newton played very well against Cotter, winning in fine style when well behind after Cotter had missed the peg-out. In the final of the other half Stride played two good breaks before Cotter hit in and retained the Gold Cup. In the play-off for second place Cotter played beautifully against Moore, who had done so well in the previous rounds.

In the Doubles Sir Leonard Daldry and Dr. Bucknall played consistently well right to the final where Mrs. Speer, who had been playing beautifully and courageously, had a long contest with 1-back. She eventually made it, to much applause, but too late. Bucknall's split peg-out from corner II was a fitting end to a Doubles which produced some very good games and some attacking croquet, which is so good to see in tournaments.

Barbara Meachem reached the final of both halves of the "B" Levels, though her best form was against the unfortunate Miss Ault. Sir Leonard could well have won the play-off but for an uncertain start, and E. J. Tucker confirmed by his play that he certainly was not a 4 bisquer.

Mr. Baverstock was rewarded for his part in the superb lunches by winning the Franc Cup and Mrs. Thompson's final was over before the time limit which is a good sign for longer bisquers.

A huge entry of 59, only a few scratchings from those doing well in other events, the impossibility of making a start to it until Wednesday afternoon—all these, and yet a result was possible in the big handicap. In the final Havery's bad luck conceded two breaks—on one occasion his ball just rolled off as he was attempting to get a rush, and on another Ross's cross-court take-off hit the yard-line ball so preventing it sailing into the flower beds.

Some attacking croquet on fast lawns, the excellent lunches and teas, the friendly atmosphere of the club and the sun all made for a thoroughly enjoyable tournament.

EVENT I (19 entries)

Sussex Gold Cup

DRAW

1st Round

Mrs. B. L. Sundius-Smith bt. W. H. Austin +8.
E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake w.o. Mrs. J. Jarden (opp. scr.).
M. Stride bt. Mrs. W. Longman +23.
N. W. T. Cox bt. D. A. Harris +17.
W. E. Moore bt. D. J. V. Hamilton-Miller +11.

2nd Round

G. W. Williams bt. W. B. C. Paynter +17.
H. A. Green bt. J. N. Robinson +11.
Mrs. Sundius-Smith bt. Mrs. H. F. Chittenden +25.
M. Stride w.o. E. C. Tyrwhitt-Drake (opp. scr.).
W. E. Moore bt. N. W. T. Cox +7.
P. Newton bt. E. P. C. Cotter +2.
C. G. Hopewell bt. Cdr. G. Borrett +14.
Judge Karmel bt. Mrs. G. F. H. Elvey +8.

3rd Round

H. A. Green bt. G. W. Williams +17.
M. Stride bt. Mrs. Sundius-Smith +25.
W. E. Moore bt. P. Newton +1.
C. G. Hopewell bt. Judge Karmel +2.

Semi-Final

M. Stride bt. H. A. Green +21.
W. E. Moore bt. C. G. Hopewell +19.

Final

M. Stride bt. W. E. Moore +19.

PROCESS

Final

M. Stride bt. E. P. C. Cotter +16.

EVENT II (19 entries)

RESTRICTED LEVEL SINGLES "B"

DRAW

1st Round

Capt. M. F. Buller bt. Miss D. A. Lintern +1.†
Professor A. S. C. Ross bt. E. J. Tucker +5.
Mrs. J. B. Meachem bt. Mrs. E. M. Temple +3.†

2nd Round

R. O. Havery bt. Major R. Driscoll +17.
K. A. Ross bt. Sir Leonard Daldry +6.
I. C. Baillieu bt. Miss E. M. Speer +2.†
Prof. Ross bt. Capt. Buller +10.
Mrs. Meachem bt. Lady Ursula Abbey (opp. ret.).
Dr. W. R. Bucknall bt. H. A. Sheppard +14.
F. Reynold bt. Mrs. I. M. Earnshaw +20.
Miss K. M. Ault bt. Miss H. D. Parker +6.

3rd Round

K. A. Ross bt. R. O. Harvey +17.
Prof. Ross bt. I. C. Baillieu +14.
Mrs. Meachem bt. Dr. Bucknall +10.
Miss Ault bt. F. Reynold +10.

Semi-Final

K. A. Ross bt. Prof. Ross +12.
Mrs. Meachem bt. Miss Ault +10.

Final

K. A. Ross bt. Mrs. Meachem +18.

PROCESS

Final

Sir L. Daldry bt. E. J. Tucker +2.†

PLAY-OFF

K. A. Ross bt. Sir L. Daldry +9.

EVENT III (14 entries)

Franc Cup

1st Round

Mrs. N. Wallwork (4) bt. Miss G. Pirie (6½) +17.
F. F. W. Staddon (4½) bt. Mrs. W. A. Naylor (5½) +7.
Mrs. E. Higinbotham (6½) bt. G. F. Paxon (6) +19.
W. J. Baverstock (4) bt. Mrs. A. S. C. Ross (4½) +3.
Dr. R. B. Berry (4) bt. W. G. B. Scott (6) +6.
M. B. Reckitt (5) bt. Miss R. E. Tucker (5) +7.†

2nd Round

Mrs. S. J. Turner (4½) bt. Mrs. Wallwork (4) +4.†
Mrs. E. Higinbotham (6½) bt. F. F. W. Staddon (4½) +14.†
W. J. Baverstock (4) bt. Dr. Berry (4) +5.
Mrs. N. W. T. Cox (5) bt. M. B. Reckitt (5) +11.

Semi-Final

Mrs. Turner (4½) w.o. Mrs. Higinbotham (6½) (opp. scr.).
W. J. Baverstock (4) bt. Mrs. Cox (4) +7.†

Final

W. J. Baverstock (4) bt. Mrs. Turner (4½) +14.

EVENT IV (7 entries)

Monteith Bowl

1st Round

Mrs. P. Newton (8) bt. Mrs. H. F. L. Jenking (10) +20.
Mrs. E. Thompson (7½) bt. Mrs. I. Stride (14) +1.†
Miss M. Tyrrell (7) bt. Mrs. D. Waterhouse (12) +3.†

Semi-Final

Mrs. Thompson (7½) bt. Mrs. Newton (8) +2.†
H. F. L. Jenking (7) bt. Miss Tyrrell (7) +3.†

Final

Mrs. Thompson (7½) bt. H. F. L. Jenking (7) +11.†

EVENT V (59 entries)

Reckitt Bowl

Quarter-Final

Dr. Bucknall (1) bt. Prof. Ross (2) +4.
R. O. Havery (1) w.o. Mrs. Tucker (5) (opp. scr.).
K. A. Ross (2½) bt. J. N. Robinson (-½) +17.
Mrs. Sundius-Smith (-1) bt. Mrs. Wallwork (4) (opp. ret.).

Semi-Final

R. O. Havery (1) bt. Dr. Bucknall (1) +3.†
K. A. Ross (2½) bt. Mrs. Sundius-Smith (-1) (opp. ret.).

Final

K. A. Ross (2½) bt. R. O. Havery (1) +20.

EVENT VI (28 pairs)

HANDICAP DOUBLES

Semi-Final

Sir L. Daldry & Dr. Bucknall (3) bt. E. J. Tucker & Mrs. Chittenden (3) +4.
M. Stride & Mrs. Speer (1) bt. W. E. Moore & Major Driscoll (-1½) +22.

Final

Sir L. Daldry & Dr. Bucknall (3) bt. M. Stride & Mrs. Speer (1) +22.

Hunstanton

August 31st - September 5th

Managers: Major R. F. Rothwell and Miss E. J. Warwick

There is no longer any room at the top. The proliferation of "A" class players caused such an imbalance in the entries for Hunstanton that a benign bending of the conditions was essential. The "A" class was pruned to sixteen, the remainder joining the original four lonely "B"s. To make it possible for the "B"s to be played as a two-life event a variation for "marrying" the two semi-final rounds was evolved by Ian Baillieu. Any player in both lives was to be given a bye—thus reducing his maximum possible games from five to two. Out of the ten entries only one survived to both semi-finals—Ian Baillieu! But Barbara Meachem fought off all the "A" challengers and was an impressive winner.

John Meachem was involved in several photo-finishes. Twice in successive rounds he pegged his remaining ball out from the boundary to get his nose in front in the "X". His break-making was a delight; his bisque-taking a disaster. In the Opens he had been unlucky to lose a game of chance (on Court 6) by one point to Richard Rothwell in one side, and to meet Bryan Lloyd-Pratt in triple-peeling form in the other. Hugh Carlisle's stroke play was of a consistently high standard and took him to both finals in the Opens. He found William Prichard in inspired form in the Draw Final, but when they met again in the play-off the game might have veered either way. Both have a particular affection for Hunstanton: William played his first tournament game here six years ago (he was then 11), while Hugh brings his own family to the beaches he knew as a boy, and it was an added pleasure to them to win their Silver Medals here. On Saturday morning Neil Robinson was in a position to sweep the board but three defeats robbed him of even one cup. He will be in America for the next three years and will be very much missed.

Bryan Lloyd-Pratt stage-managed Mrs. Mew through four acts in the Doubles. The play was sometimes brilliant, sometimes farcical, but always entertaining. One scatter shot of Bryan's will long be remembered—especially by Gordon Hopewell on a neighbouring court—for its noisy and triumphant climax. The Meachems nearly brought the curtain down on the second act but Mrs. Mew stole the scene with a star turn just in time. This was Mrs. Mew's first visit and she will be welcome when she returns to defend both her cups. She had to use her 8 bisques well to beat Capt. Greenham in the final of the "C"s; he was the most successful of the Ipswich contingent this year.

Things remembered. Guy Warwick's copy-book finish when his Doubles partner, Veronica Carlisle, had been pegged out by her husband. Veronica's brave display in the "B"s which she has reached without ever having won a Singles event. The long, long "havering" peg-out that failed. Sarah Hampson's trouser-suits: they were made for each other. Joan Simpson's come-back from a seemingly hopeless position to peg-out and beat "Emma Peel". Proudfoot's smiling face as Guy Warwick remembered the piebald pony which used to mow the lawns. (The Proudfoots father and son have been Groundsmen here since 1897.) The delicious teas and quite exceptional kindness of everyone. Jane and Arthur Neville Rolfe who are Hunstanton. Judge Karmel striking form to win the last hilarious match of the week and the "Y": his cup was full. The Managers in holiday mood: seeding when not entitled to do so and failing to seed when entitled. But let not such frivolity deceive. Pushing 123 games through on 6 courts is a serious business and this they did until it was irrecoverably dark. Joan Warwick sprained her ankle and unfortunately had to retire from play, but not from management. While Richard Rothwell played almost the quickest game of the week (only equalled by Reg Simpson), and the latest, earning once again a place in the Opens final.

EVENT I (16 entries)

Norfolk Challenge Cup

DRAW

1st Round

H. B. H. Carlisle bt. J. G. Warwick +17.
E. H. S. Shelton bt. His Hon. Judge A. D. Karmel +23.
J. B. Meachem bt. Miss E. J. Warwick +9.
B. Lloyd-Pratt bt. Mrs. D. M. C. Prichard +8.
Mrs. R. A. Simpson bt. Mrs. B. L. Sundius-Smith +2.
W. de B. Prichard bt. J. N. Robinson +10.
C. G. Hopewell bt. R. A. Simpson +7.
R. O. Havery bt. Major R. F. Rothwell +19.

2nd Round

H. B. H. Carlisle bt. E. H. S. Shelton +1.†
B. Lloyd-Pratt bt. J. B. Meachem +24.
W. de B. Prichard bt. Mrs. Simpson +22.
R. O. Havery bt. C. G. Hopewell +12.

Semi-Final

H. B. H. Carlisle bt. B. Lloyd-Pratt +9.
W. de B. Prichard bt. R. O. Havery +4.

Final

W. de B. Prichard bt. H. B. H. Carlisle +14.

PROCESS

Final

H. B. H. Carlisle bt. Major Rothwell +18.

PLAY-OFF

W. de B. Prichard bt. H. B. H. Carlisle +3.

EVENT II (10 entries)

Hunstanton Rose Bowl

1st Round

Mrs. H. B. H. Carlisle bt. Miss E. C. Brumpton +11.
I. C. Baillieu bt. P. L. Gifford-Nash +4.

2nd Round

Capt. M. F. Buller bt. Miss E. M. Brumpton +15.
I. C. Baillieu bt. Miss S. G. Hampson +21.
Mrs. A. Neville Rolfe bt. Mrs. Carlisle +11.†
Mrs. G. W. Solomon bt. Mrs. J. B. Meachem +8.

PROCESS

1st Round

Miss Maud Brumpton bt. Mrs. Solomon +13.
Mrs. Meachem bt. Capt. Buller +16.

2nd Round

Miss Hampson bt. Mrs. Carlisle +12.
I. C. Baillieu bt. Miss Maud Brumpton +12.
P. L. Gifford-Nash bt. Mrs. Neville Rolfe +2.†
Mrs. Meachem bt. Miss Brumpton +7.†

AMALGAMATION OF DRAW AND PROCESS

Capt. Buller bt. Mrs. Neville Rolfe +14.
Mrs. Solomon bt. Miss Hampson +4.
Mrs. Meachem bt. P. L. Gifford-Nash +14.

Semi-Final

I. C. Baillieu bt. Capt. Buller +1.
Mrs. Meachem bt. Mrs. Solomon +18.

Final

Mrs. Meachem bt. I. C. Baillieu +18.

EVENT III (7 entries)

Rose Bowl

1st Round

Mrs. F. J. T. Mew (16) bt. Miss M. Mactier (14) +21.
Mrs. L. Cordy (10) bt. Miss J. K. Samuel (7) +15.†
Mrs. P. L. Gifford-Nash (10) bt. C. R. Palmer (9) +4.

Semi-Final

Mrs. Mew (16) bt. Mrs. Cordy (10) +1.†
Capt. A. W. Greenham (8) bt. Mrs. Gifford-Nash (10) +4.†

Final

Mrs. Mew (16) bt. Capt. Greenham (8) +8.†

EVENT IV (34 entries)

Ingleby Cup

Quarter-Final

J. B. Meachem (0) bt. R. A. Simpson (0) +20.
H. B. H. Carlisle (-½) bt. Major Rothwell (-2) +15.
C. G. Hopewell (-1) bt. Mrs. Mew (16) +14.
J. N. Robinson (-1½) bt. Miss Hampson (3) +23.

Semi-Final

J. B. Meachem (0) bt. H. B. H. Carlisle (-½) +3.
J. N. Robinson (-1½) bt. C. G. Hopewell (-1) +19.

Final

J. B. Meachem (0) bt. J. N. Robinson (-1½) +1.
Consolation event ("Y") won by: Judge Karmel (-1½).
Runner-up: Mrs. Sundius-Smith (-1).

EVENT V (17 pairs)

Hope and Clark Cups

Semi-Final

B. Lloyd-Pratt & Mrs. Mew (11) bt. Miss Warwick & Mrs. Gifford-Nash (7) +8.
J. N. Robinson & Capt. Greenham (6½) bt. R. A. Simpson & Mrs. Solomon (1) +22.

Final

B. Lloyd-Pratt & Mrs. Mew (11) bt. J. N. Robinson & Capt. Greenham (6½) +13.

†Denotes a win on time.

Rochampton

September 14th - 19th

Manager: Miss D. A. Lintern

This historic Club's Official Open Tournament made an auspicious return to the Calendar after its enforced and lamented absence last year. When one thinks of what the name Rochampton has meant to our game from the earliest years of the century it is saddening to reflect that of the C.A. events (Open Championships, "Caskets", Peels and Challenge and Gilbeys) that used to be played there, only the All England finals remain. Two important trophies are competed for at the Open Tournament now. The Ranelagh Gold Cup from the long-since defunct Ranelagh Club, recalled admiringly by Miss Weightman in the symposium on Edwardian Croquet "As It Was"; and the attractive Creyke Cups, presented to the Croquet Association for Handicap play by the late Mrs. Walter Creyke in 1935.

Edgar Jackson, the Cheltenham star, dominated the Opens, revenging himself against his arch-foe Bryan Lloyd-Pratt, who had won the Cheltenham Opens in July, but on the heavier Rochampton courts had to be content with the second prize. The "B" class restricted handicap for the handsome Brooke Cup had many young and rapidly improving entrants: Robert Bateson (the winner), Ian Anderson, Geoffrey Strutt, Freddie Reynold and Susan Hay. Paul Puxon, who won the "C" class event for which, to his chagrin, there is no trophy, will soon find himself in a lower class. The entry for this class was disappointingly small. Now that London has no open handicap events other than the Creyke Cups, and the Silver Jubilee Cup at Hurlingham, it is reasonable to expect the local long bisquers to support the few events that are available for them. Hurlingham was represented by only Justin Crane, Veronica Carlisle having had to scratch, and Miss Anderson reached the Final by virtue of two walk-overs.

Hurlingham, however, was nobly represented by Nancy Skempton in the Creyke Cups, the final of which produced the closest and most exciting match of the week, when Robert Bateson, in his second triumph, prevailed +1 against Nancy after she had failed to peg out her forward ball. The "Y" event saw Miss Maud Brumpton who, with her sister, is a most welcome visitor to any tournaments which she and Cicely can attend, winning in convincing style against Edgar Jackson. In that event Maurice Reckitt, glorying in his new handicap of 5, had some good wins accompanied by an *ostinato* of disapproval by the Manager, who, as Chairman of the Handicap Co-ordinating Committee, had had her committee's less generous allotment of bisques increased by the Handicap Appeal Committee's decision in favour of Maurice.

The Handicap Doubles provided the Win of the Year. The Open Championships and President's Cup were small beer compared with Miss Bartlett, at the tender age of ninety-two, successfully piloting her partner, Roger Hicks, to victory. Roger has, selfishly it was thought, booked her as his partner for the next five years, after which, he said, he would "be too old"! The only complaint of the week came from a pair who were playing the winners: "It's not much fun being on the side who nobody wants to win".

EVENT I (15 entries)

Ranelagh Gold Cup

DRAW

1st Round

G. E. P. Jackson bt. Lieut.-Col. A. E. Saalfeld +23.
B. Lloyd-Pratt bt. Mrs. B. L. Sundius-Smith +17.
D. C. Caporn bt. Miss D. Morgan +3.
J. B. Gilbert w.o. G. W. Williams (opp. scr.).
D. V. H. Rees w.o. Mrs. W. Longman (opp. scr.).
R. O. Hicks bt. I. C. Baillieu +25.
D. J. V. Hamilton-Miller bt. Mrs. E. M. Lightfoot +16.

2nd Round

G. E. P. Jackson bt. B. Lloyd-Pratt +7.
J. B. Gilbert bt. D. C. Caporn +1.†
R. O. Hicks bt. D. V. H. Rees +18.
C. G. Hopewell bt. D. J. V. Hamilton-Miller +14.

Semi-Final

G. E. P. Jackson bt. J. B. Gilbert +3.
C. G. Hopewell bt. R. O. Hicks +16.

Final

G. E. P. Jackson bt. C. G. Hopewell +9.

PROCESS

Final

G. E. P. Jackson bt. B. Lloyd-Pratt +3.

EVENT II (19 entries)

Brooke Cup

1st Round

I. S. Anderson (6) bt. M. B. Reckitt (5) +20.
J. L. Sanders (5) bt. Miss E. C. Brumpton (3½) +16.
Mrs. F. H. N. Davidson (5) bt. Mrs. E. E. Bressey (5½) +9.

2nd Round

F. E. Pearson (3) bt. Mrs. S. M. Adler (5) +18.
Miss S. F. Hay (6) bt. Mrs. A. W. Skempton (2½) +14.
R. O. Havery (½) bt. W. B. C. Paynter (1) +23.
I. S. Anderson (6) bt. J. L. Sanders (5) +11.
F. Reynold (2) bt. Mrs. Davidson (5) +4.
R. N. Bateson (6) w.o. A. d'Antal (3½) (opp. scr.).
Miss E. M. Brumpton (4½) bt. Mrs. B. G. Neal (6) +10.
G. G. Strutt (5) bt. Mrs. G. W. Solomon (1) +7.

3rd Round

Miss Hay (6) bt. F. E. Pearson (3) +2.
I. S. Anderson (6) bt. R. O. Havery (½) +2.
R. N. Bateson (6) bt. F. Reynold (2) +12.
G. G. Strutt (5) bt. Miss Maud Brumpton (4½) +21.

Semi-Final

I. S. Anderson (6) bt. Miss Hay (6) +5.
R. N. Bateson (6) bt. G. G. Strutt (5) +3.

Final

R. N. Bateson (6) bt. I. S. Anderson (6) +23.

EVENT III (8 entries)

RESTRICTED HANDICAP SINGLES

1st Round

Miss M. Anderson (6½) w.o. Mrs. D. F. Caporn (9) (opp. scr.).
Mrs. J. F. Hay (7) w.o. Mrs. H. B. H. Carlisle (6½) (opp. scr.).
Mrs. M. Carrington (7) bt. J. N. Crane (14) +11.
P. B. Puxon (9) bt. Miss G. W. Bartlett (9) +4.

Semi-Final

Miss Anderson (6½) w.o. Mrs. Hay (7) (opp. scr.).
P. B. Puxon (9) bt. Mrs. Carrington (7) +19.

Final

P. B. Puxon (9) bt. Miss M. Anderson (6½) +14.

EVENT IV (34 entries)

Creyke Cups

Quarter-Final

F. E. Pearson (3) bt. D. J. V. Hamilton-Miller (-3½) +14.
Mrs. Skempton (2½) bt. G. G. Strutt (6) +2.
Miss Hay (6) bt. R. O. Havery (½) +18.
R. N. Bateson (6) bt. I. C. Baillieu (1) +26.

Semi-Final

Mrs. Skempton (2½) bt. F. E. Pearson (3) +7.
R. N. Bateson (6) bt. Miss Hay (6) +15.

Final

R. N. Bateson (6) bt. Mrs. Skempton (2½) +1.

Consolation event ("Y") won by: Miss Maud Brumpton (4½).
Runner-up: G. E. P. Jackson (-3).

EVENT V (13 pairs)

HANDICAP DOUBLES

Semi-Final

R. O. Hicks & Miss Bartlett (7½) bt. B. Lloyd-Pratt & I. S. Anderson (3) +4.
D. C. Caporn & G. G. Strutt (5½) bt. Col. Saalfeld & W. B. C. Paynter (0) +14.

Final

R. O. Hicks & Miss Bartlett (7½) bt. D. C. Caporn & G. G. Strutt (5½) +7.

WEEK-ENDS

Colchester. August 28th-31st (22 entries)

Winner: P. D. Hallett (-1½).
Runner-up: Mrs. G. S. Digby (9).
Handicap Doubles won by: P. D. Hallett & Mrs. D. H. Moorcraft (11½).
Runners-up: Miss W. K. Allardyce & Mrs. G. S. Digby (11).

Cheltenham IV. September 18th-20th (32 entries)
Block winners: R. N. Bateson (5), A. C. W. Davies (3½), Mrs. G. H. Wood (5), R. A. W. Chaff (7).

Cheltenham V. October 16th-19th (40 entries)

Winner: Miss E. H. Arkell (6).
Runner-up: L. G. Ayliffe (6).

Letters to the Editor

THE ANTECEDENTS OF CROQUET from Professor A. S. C. Ross

Sir,
In his letter to *The Gazette* (No. 110, Spring 1970, page 8), Mr. Shelton suggests that Croquet is of French origin in that it derives from the Jeu de Mail (called Pall-Mall in English); he also mentions the possibility of Spanish origin.

He makes no reference to the article entitled "Croquet" by Mr. R. L. Thomson (a Celtic scholar) and myself which was published in 1965 in *Notes and Queries*, vol. 210 (pages 349-351); this article was summarised—at some length—in *Croquet* (No. 87, June 1966, page 2).

In this article we make it plain that there is no evidence whatsoever for a French origin of the game of Croquet or of its name, but that there is impeccable evidence for a proximate Irish origin of the game. We also suggest a reasonable Irish explanation of the name—that is, that the English word *croquet* is simply a representation of the Irish word *cluiche*, which means "play" (as verb or noun). Despite its spelling, it is the fact that *cluiche* is pronounced in a manner very similar to the English pronunciation of the word *croquet*.

There is nothing new in Mr. Shelton's suggestion that Croquet resembles Pall-Mall. As we point out, the *Oxford English Dictionary* s.v. *Croquet* sb. 1 (in a section which appeared in 1893) states that the game "resembles more or less the ancient game of Clossh, and the more recent one of Pall-Mall, in both of which a ball had to be driven through an arch or hoop". The Jeu de Mail is well-known; see, for instance, J. Lauthier, *Nouvelles règles pour le jeu de Mail* (published in 1722). But, as we point out, the resemblances between Croquet and Pall-Mall and between Croquet and Clossh (which is the same as the present-day Dutch game of *Beugelen*) are superficial and to be discounted.

Mr. Shelton's Spanish game (to which he states he is unable to give a reference) is undoubtedly the game called *Mallo*. This is sufficiently well-known to receive a small entry in the large Spanish encyclopædia, *Enciclopedia universal ilustrada europeo-americana*. The game is simply the Jeu de Mail and *mallo* is a Spanish adaptation of the French word *mail*. The Spanish game was, as Mr. Shelton states, played in the seventeenth century; it is mentioned, for instance, in Caro's *Dias geniales ó lúdicos*, a work completed in 1626 (edition of the *Sociedad de Bibliófilos andaluces*, page 180).

Finally, I may mention that any explanation of the origin of Croquet ought also to explain the origin of the terms *roquet* and *to take croquet*. It is most improbable that the former is an English alteration of the word *croquet* and the latter is "idiomatic". In our article we suggest Irish explanations for both these terms; no French explanations of them have ever been suggested.

Yours truly,
ALAN ROSS.

Birmingham.

BEST TEN

from M. B. Reckitt, Esq., President of the C.A.

Sir,
The question of who have been the greatest players in the history of our game is one that is often raised. But it is inevitably unanswerable in any convincing form. Even if we take the period since the Revival in the Nineties there is no-one still alive who can have a full recollection of all the leading players during that time. And even if there were such a person he would have to make comparison of the success of competitors in very varying conditions of play.

Nevertheless, and appreciating these limitations, I, with the experience of watching first-class play for nearly sixty years, have attempted to make a selection of the "Best Ten" as exemplified by their play when at their best. I have myself seen something, and, in almost every case, a great deal of all the players in my list, all of whom have been winners of the Open Championships or the Champion Cup (now the President's Cup) and in seven cases of both. I list them in order of their emergence as great players: any attempt at a "ranking list" would be quite impossible:

C. Corbally, C. L. O'Callaghan, P. Duff Matthews, G. L. Reckitt, D. L. G. Joseph, H. O. Hicks, E. P. C. Cotter, J. W. Solomon, K. F. Wylie, G. N. Aspinall.

Such a selection is, of course, endlessly controversial and can be argued over *ad infinitum*. Perhaps the most conspicuous omission is that of Miss D. D. Steel. I have also had to leave out the names of two great New Zealand players, Keith Izard and Arthur Ross. The former never won either of our premier events, though he came very near to doing so, and though the latter did win our Open Championships he was a little past what we know to have been his best by the time he played over here.

More temerarily still I have completed a list of the Best Ten Ladies. However, as many of those included are names unknown to most players today, and as this is so sensitive a subject in respect of those which are not, I hesitate to publish it, unless strongly desired—or challenged—to do so.

Yours truly,
MAURICE RECKITT.

Roehampton.

The Editor duly challenged our President to produce his Best Ten Ladies, and, with the aid of Mr. Noel Hicks, the following were submitted: Miss Gower (Mrs. Beaton), Miss D. D. Steel, Miss Ella Simeon, Miss Spartali (Mrs. Ionides), Miss Gilchrist (Mrs. de la Mothe), Miss Mona Bryan, Mrs. Strickland (Mrs. Apps), Miss Heap, Mrs. Rotherham, Mrs. Jarden.

The ladies whom Mr. Reckitt and Mr. Hicks found hardest to omit were: Miss Jocelyn (Lady Julian Parr) and her sister, Lady Marcia Miles, Mrs. Blood, Miss Bramwell and Mrs. Clarkson.

METRICATION

from Dr. R. B. Berry

Sir,

Since I began to play croquet I have believed that the popular *stigma* under which the sport labours, namely that it is fustian and unadventurous in outlook and that its adherents may be similarly described, is totally without justification.

Despite Dr. A. M. Brown's attempt to persuade me of the contrary I cling to this conviction and would point out the folly of encumbering our sport with a medley of measurements incomprehensible to those young players of the future whom we must attract in order that croquet may remain extant.

The issue is not the adoption by Britain of the Metric system, this matter has already been settled beyond our control, but our ability as croquet players to adapt to changing circumstances.

Yours truly,
R. B. BERRY.

Stoke-on-Trent.

from C. G. Hopewell, Esq.

Sir,

In the unlikely event of the proposals for the "metrication" of croquet's measurements being taken seriously there are, I feel, germane considerations other than those expressed by the Edgbaston Committee and by Dr. Brown in his excellent letter that appeared in the subsequent *Gazette*.

I cannot agree that the changes in size are negligible: those of the court's dimensions are, admittedly, imperceptible, but this is irrelevant. Surely the important measurement is that of the clearance between hoop and ball, and, since this is a small quantity, the effects of rounding-off are by no means negligible. For example, the change in clearance under the President's Cup conditions amounts to 26%! This implies that some distinction must be made between old and new equipment. To gain an advantage by knowing that, say, blue and yellow are new pattern balls and the others are not is hardly Croquet. Do we want the decision about whether or not to attempt a hoop to depend on how recently the hoop was cast?

What cogent reason is there for the Procrustean change? Is it so very much more difficult to cast a hoop of 93.7 mm compared with one of 94 mm? Anyhow, the dimensions of the croquet court and equipment are in yards, feet, and inches. Long may they remain so.

Yours truly,
C. G. HOPEWELL.

Cambridge.

The Croquet Association

NOTES AND OFFICIAL NOTICES

ABRIDGED HANDBOOK 1970-1972. This gives the handicaps, names and addresses of Associates, and the Official Lists of Managers, Referees and Handicappers. It is obtainable from the Office, price 6/-, post free.

THE CONDENSING OF C.A. AND OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RESULTS in this issue (giving the last rounds only of Process, big Handicap, and Doubles events) has been forced on the Editor by lack of space.

SILVER MEDALS, 1970, have been won by: Mrs. J. Jarden, H. B. H. Carlisle, M. J. Bushnell, W. de B. Prichard, and M. Stride.

THE ELIZABETH PRICHARD AWARD for the Club having the largest number of New Referees in proportion to its membership has been presented to the Edgbaston Club.

A.G.M., 1971: May 24th, at 2.30 p.m.

The trophies for the most improved players have been awarded, for 1970, as follows:

Apps Cup (gentleman): COLONEL E. L. L. VULLIAMY.

Steel Bowl (lady): MISS E. H. ARKELL.

The disbursement to the most deserving Club, 1970:

Apps Memorial Award: IPSWICH CLUB.

NEW ASSOCIATES

R. S. ALFORD, ESQ., 6, Glen Avenue, Colchester, Essex.
MRS. H. F. L. JENKING, Ashcroft, Maudlin Park Way, Steyning, Sussex.

R. M. KEANE, ESQ., 3, Coleherne Mews, London, S.W.10.
R. M. MANN, ESQ., The Old Rectory, Upper Nervet, Reading, Berkshire.

MISS W. CREED MEREDITH, 29, Western Road, Southall, Middlesex.

T. E. SCHOLLAR, ESQ., 9, Dudley Park Road, Acock's Green, Birmingham, 27, Warwickshire.

MISS V. STRAKER, Swallowfield Park, Reading, Berkshire.
PROFESSOR & MRS. B. G. F. WEITZ, Aberleigh Hall Farm, Aborfield, Berkshire.

R. N. BATESON, ESQ., Lotus, Woodcock Hill, Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire.

J. H. M. COCKAYNE, ESQ., Creems Farm, Nayland, Essex.
H. G. DRAKE, ESQ., The Pharmacy, Goudhurst, Kent.

R. I. EVEREST, ESQ., 40, Saffrons Court, Compton Palace Road, Eastbourne, Sussex.

MRS. C. W. HAWORTH, The Garth, Rothley, Leicestershire.
MRS. F. J. T. MEW, Kingston Manor, near Chale Green, Isle of Wight.

DR. H. A. PIM, Astbury, Satwell Close, Rotherfield Greys, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

MISS J. WRAITH, 121, Russell Lane, London, N.20.

R. FORTH, ESQ., Shaw Hill, Pinchinthorpe, Guisborough, Yorkshire.

OVERSEAS

M. W. L. PEASE, ESQ., P.O. Box 9113, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, East Africa.

MISS E. M. McDougall, 6, Escombe Road, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.

DR. E. CALLANAN, Life Sciences Building, Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut 06106, U.S.A.

MRS. J. JARDEN, 751b, High Street, Lower Hutt, New Zealand.
MISS D. MORGAN, Australia (Address to be supplied).

L. MIDDLETON, ESQ., Green Acre, Garthdee Road, Cults, Aberdeen, Australia.

NEW ADDRESSES

MRS. R. HILL, 9, Wentworth, Crichel Mount Road, Lilliput, Poole, Dorsetshire.

R. OTLEY, ESQ., 14, Courtfield Road, London, S.W.7. (Tel. 01-373 0333)

J. N. ROBINSON, ESQ., 202, Rieber Hall, 310, de Neve Drive, Los Angeles, California 90024, U.S.A.

PROFESSOR & MRS. A. S. C. ROSS, Department of Linguistics, P.O. Box 363, The University, Birmingham, 15, Warwickshire.

J. H. J. SOUTTER, ESQ., 6, Elm Court, Manor Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. (Tel. 049-12 4515)

J. P. WINCKWORTH, ESQ., 1, Stanmer House, Furness Road, Eastbourne, Sussex. (Tel. 0323 27169)

COL. D. W. BEAMISH's telephone number is: 039-54 2640—not 3640 as in the Abridged Handbook.

MISS D. A. LINTERN's telephone number is: 01-788 1062—not 785 as in the Abridged Handbook.

MAJOR R. F. ROTHWELL's telephone number is: 0734-475415—not 073-75415 as in the Abridged Handbook.

NEW CLUB SECRETARIES

Beecham's Research Sports & Social Club. Hon. Secretary: R. N. RAPLEY, ESQ.

Jeallott's Hill. Hon. Secretary: J. W. GILLIATT, ESQ.

St. Mary's College, Twickenham. Hon. Secretary: EDWARD PAWLEY, ESQ.

Wellcome Research Laboratories. Hon. Secretary: A. A. MILLER, ESQ.

NEW OFFICIALS

Manager and Handicapper: I. C. BAILLIEU, ESQ.

Referee: W. DE B. PRICHARD, ESQ.

The final handicap changes for 1970 and the Prize List will be published in the next issue.

The Croquet Association,

Hurlingham Club,

London, S.W.6.

Telephone: 01-736 3148.

VANDELEUR ROBINSON, Secretary.



LONGMAN CUP

1st Round

Woking bt. Caversham 3—1.

Roehampton bt. Harrow Oak 4—1.

2nd Round

Bowdon bt. Ellesmere 4—0.

Edgbaston bt. Radbroke Hall 3—2.

Woking bt. Hurlingham 5—0.

Parsons' Green bt. Roehampton 3—2.

3rd Round

Bowdon bt. Edgbaston 3—1.

Wrest Park bt. Colchester 3—2.

Woking bt. Parsons' Green 3—1.

Southwick bt. Compton 3—2.

Semi-Final

Bowdon bt. Wrest Park 3—1.

Woking bt. Southwick 3—0.

Final

(Played on 24th October, at Cheltenham)

Bowdon bt. Woking 3—1

R. Walker (34), N. Williams (4), T. G. Bennett (34), Canon Pym
E. Black (5) & Mrs. R. Chaff (74). (34), D. Temple-Page (54) & Mrs. H. Nalder (54).

NON-OFFICIAL TOURNAMENTS

Southwick II. August 31st-September 5th (55 entries)

Manager: Mrs. H. F. Chittenden

Abbey Cup:

Winners: Cdr. G. Borrett and W. E. Moore (divided).

Third: Mrs. W. Longman.

Event II ("B" Level Singles)

Winner: E. J. Tucker.

Runner-up: Mrs. L. C. Farlie.

Event III ("C" Handicap Singles)

Winner: M. Stainer (10).

Runner-up: P. Goolden (8).

Douglas Jones Cup

Winner: N. W. T. Cox (0).

Runner-up: the late D. Himmens (—1).

Event V (Handicap Doubles)

Winners: N. W. T. and Mrs. Cox.

Runners-up: Cdr. G. Borrett & Mrs. H. F. L. Jenking.

Parkstone. September 14th-19th (40 entries)

Manager: Mrs. H. F. Chittenden

Bournemouth Bowl

Winner: R. O. B. Whittington.

Runner-up (Ashton Cup): Sir Leonard Daldry, K.B.E.

Deshon Cup

Winner: L. S. Butler.

Runner-up: Mrs. G. H. Wood.

Halse Salver

Winner: J. H. J. Soutter (7*).

Runner-up: Mrs. D. J. Bird (8).

Bishop Cup

Winner: J. H. J. Soutter (7).

Runner-up: Dr. W. R. Bucknall (0).

Event V (Handicap Doubles)

Winners: L. S. Butler & Miss C. M. Stanton (18).

Runners-up: P. Newton & Mrs. G. H. Wood (4).