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THE CROQUET GAZETTE

Number 157

AUTUMN 1980

The Official Organ of the Croquet Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

Reminiscent Roquets

reproduced from The C.A. Gazette August 2nd 1941

The Little Things In Croquet

Croquet has often been called Outdoor Billiards, and when explaining the game to someone who is quite ignorant of its quality this is by no means a bad simile to make. For the game undoubtedly does resemble billiards in many ways; strokes there are in croquet, splitshots and roquets of various strength, strokes requiring knowledge of angles, all closely related to those on the billiard-table. Unfortunately, however, there is a vast difference between the playing surface of the two games; we say unfortunately, because in both games it is often fractions of inches which make or mar a good shot. And in croquet, because it is impossible to have a lawn as uniformly level as a billiard-table really accurate play cannot be relied upon; and one is often unable to play with an eye, for the niceties of the game, those little things, that make all the difference to the success of strokes on which winning a game may depend.

Having learnt to resign ourselves to the fact that "Outdoor Billiards" cannot be played on a billiard table surface, we can console ourselves with the knowledge that though we have often seen our finest long shot turn off the last yard or two we have also seen a bad shot turn on the object ball when it should have missed. The first is one of those little things sent to try us, but we are apt to forget the other, the compensating consolation.

Those who study the Laws of Croquet must realise by the very detailed nature of those laws how the game is made up of little things which, though small in themselves are actually of paramount importance. The yard-line in itself provides a subject from which to learn how vastly important are the little things involved in balls that are or should be placed accurately one yard from the inner edge of the line, i.e., the boundary.

Here is a case which actually occurred. The striker went off the boundary with Blue at a point where Black looked to be also a yard-line ball. On putting Blue on the court (having apparently measured a yard with his mallet), the striker decided that Black was not a yard-line ball, and placed Blue just not touching Black. As a result of this decision — made we must assume in good faith — Blue had a perfect rush on Black to its hoop. Now here the question of whether both Black and Blue were really accurate as to position was most important; and here comes in what seemed a little thing in itself (a matter perhaps of an eighth of an inch between the two balls), but of enormous importance to the issue of the game.

Another little thing; two balls a foot apart on the boundary are yard-line balls — or intended to be. On the same boundary, 25 yards off, is the striker's ball, and he shoots with it at the two balls. They should of course have presented a single ball target; but because the further one is not accurately placed, and projects very slightly, this half inch sticking out is hit. Here again it may be thought a little thing that there was only such a small inaccuracy; but the shot that should have missed if the two balls had been properly placed on the yard-line might quite well have proved to have won the game.

Again, the question of whether the striker is entitled to place his ball in contact with another ball that is so nearly protruding into the hoop on the non-playing side of it. If it can be decided that even a fraction of the ball does so protrude, then the striker may put his ball in the hoop in contact with that ball and run the hoop in the croquet stroke. If the ball does not so protrude, even a fraction of an inch, then there may be such difficulty in making contact with it and the striker's ball that the croquet stroke that follows (i.e., the approach to the hoop) may be impossible and the hoop cannot be run.

Assuming that this is the rover hoop, and it only had to be run to win the game, note what a little thing prevented the running of the hoop. Incidentally, consider how difficult is the umpire's job to decide such a point. One cannot help being impressed with the fact that winning or losing — the fate of the game, in fact, often hangs on a mere thread.

reproduced from The C.A. Gazette February 23rd 1922

Some Famous Croquet Clubs

No. 1 BUDLEIGH-SALTERTON

A Notable Jubilee

Half a century has passed since Club Croquet first came to be established at Budleigh-Salterton in Devon. Never for a season since has the game failed to find a following in this famous stronghold of the West. Here is a fine record; one of which the local players may legitimately feel proud.

A glance back at the Club's early history shows us that it began life as an Archery Club, on part of its present site, somewhere about the middle of the last century. Not even the immense popularity of Croquet in the sixties, during which period the game may be said to have taken the country by storm, proved strong enough to disturb the Archers from their undisputed possession, and it was not until early in the next decade that the conservative tendencies of the little town allowed Croquet to secure a footing within the coveted precincts. For the ten years which followed, the click of the mallet was to be heard on alternate days with the twang of the bow; and when, in 1880, Lawn Tennis made its appearance, the toxophilites were relegated to an adjoining field. This, however, they appear to have soon abandoned in deference to the changing fashion. It is significant that the new ground was at once apportioned into three Croquet courts, a Local Guide of about this date announcing that "The Club may now be deemed fairly complete with its six Tennis and four Croquet grounds."

The growth of the Club and the local attitude towards games may be gauged by the fact that there are now thirteen grass Lawn Tennis courts, two hard Lawn Tennis courts, and six Croquet grounds; and although the local Members might hesitate, even now, to describe their Club as "fairly complete," they would certainly be justified in considering it a large one for a small seaside town of little more than 2,700 inhabitants.

Ever since its installation at the Budleigh-Salterton Club, Croquet has been assured of an enthusiastic local following. It will be within the memory of some of the older players that there came a break of several years during which the game died

down considerably, in most places even showed signs of complete extinction. This was never the case at Budleigh-Salterton. At least two grounds were always kept up and were constantly in use.

It is not surprising, then, that the subsequent revival of the old game (albeit in a modernised and scientific form) was nowhere more readily welcomed than at Budeigh-Salterton, where the enterprising Club was among the first in the country to open up new grounds for its practice and enjoyment.

In its early days the Club owed a great deal to Dr Prior, one of the most energetic pioneers of Croquet, who came often to enjoy his games at Budleigh-Salterton; also to Surgeon-General J.T.C. Ross, C.I.E., a very keen player, and local resident for many years, who took the greatest interest in the Club and presented a Challenge Cup for Singles in 1896, the date of the Club's first Open Tournament. En passant it is interesting to note that this was just one year before the revival of the Croquet Championships, these events having lapsed between 1882 and 1897.

The Budleigh-Salterton Open Tournament has been held annually since 1896 without break, except during the years of the war. Many of the very best exponents of the game have fought their battles on the Club's grounds. It was there, indeed, that Mrs Beaton (then Miss Lily Gower) made her tournament debut, carrying off the Cup after a never-to-be-forgotten struggle with Mr C.E. Willis, then at the top of his fame. Rev H.C. Lauder won the trophy in 1902, in 1911, and again last year: Mr Rayden Stone won it outright in 1914, but generously gave it back to the Club, being content to accept a small replica instead.

Among the numerous competitors, besides those already mentioned, Mr Booth, Mr Locock, Mr Jessopp, Miss B. Willis, Miss Coote, Miss O. Henry, Mrs F.H. White, Mr Izard, Mr Dunscombe, Mr Escott, Mr Maxwell Browne, Mr H.R. Burton, and many other leading experts have been locally well-known.

Sometimes a second Open Tournament is held. While there are always several events on the American system open every season to visitors. During each of the last two seasons one of the Club's visiting members, Dr Ernest Clarke, has kindly presented a silver cup, to be played for in August by members under handicap. In 1920 this event was won by Miss M.E. Josling; last year by Lady Alison.

The unique situation of the Club and its beautiful surroundings are always greatly admired. Lying at the top of a steep but short hill, the grounds command exquisite views both over sea and land. From the fact of its lying so high, and drying so extremely quickly, the Club derives one great advantage with, perhaps, a corresponding disadvantage. A longer season is made possible, with more croquet than in many other places. Play generally begins about the third week in April, and goes on till the first or second week in October, there being very few days when the grounds are too wet for use. As regards the reverse side of the picture — this speedy drying makes the grounds very fast towards the end of the summer, more especially during a dry year such as 1921, play, of course becoming correspondingly difficult.

Quite apart from the writer's own personal experience of pleasant croquet weeks spent in this delightful Club, he feels sure he would be voicing the sentiment of all its present Members in assuring intending visitors to Budleigh-Salterton of a very hearty welcome, when they go there. Add to this the certainty (whatever their individual handicaps) of getting a number of excellent games played under A1 conditions. This reads, perhaps, like mere gratuitous advertisement. Nothing of the kind. It is a piece of sound advice, and a fitting way, moreover, to commemorate a Jubilee unique in the annals of Croquet!

What Would You Do & Why?

Playing in the Silver Jubilee Cup this year, I was giving one bisque to a 5 handicap player, which bisque was still standing.

I was for 3 with black, 1- back with blue, and he was for 2 with yellow and 4 with red. He left black a foot from hoop 4, blue a yard on the playing side of 1- back at an angle but runnable down the lawn and he laid up with a rush on red with yellow for hoop 2 about 4 yards in front of 2- back but wired from blue which could hit black. D.C. Caporn

The Secretary & Editor.

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

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

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

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

Deadline

Copy for the Winter Issue of the gazette must reach the Editor not later than SATURDAY November 22nd

Editorial

Anyone perusing the list of handicap alterations featured in this year's Gazettes will have noted the rising number of handicap increases. It is only within the past year that handicappers have been empowered to raise a player's handicap, as well as reduce it. This is slowly enabling the C. A. to get handicaps better balanced, thus perhaps avoiding the necessity for a general increase every few years. Just the same as a player who is improving should have his handicap reduced, the player who, for varying reasons, does not perform as well as he once did, should have his handicap raised.

However, many players resent any suggestion that their handicap should be put up, because they are perhaps, proud of having achieved that particular handicap or they feel that it may be impossible for them to be reduced at a later date, if their play improves again. This is a great pity, for I am sure no handicapper wishes to upset any competitor but increases must occur. There are more events appearing in the Official Calendar each year where, successful entry into it, depends on how low a player's handicap is. It is obviously unfair to the improving player of say 2½ whose entry is rejected for an Open weekend tournament when players of a lower handicap are accepted, whose handicaps are obviously incorrect.

It is not often that a list is available showing players of the same handicap together whereby they can be compared. I thus take the opportunity of showing below all Associates with handicaps of 2 or less as at 25th August 1980.

—3½ G.N. Aspinall	—2 A.B. Hope
	S.N. Mulliner
—3 W. de B. Prichard	Prof. B.G. Neal
	D.K. Openshaw
—2½ M.E.W. Heap	Dr. E.W. Solomon
Dr. M. Murray	
Dr. W.P. Ormerod	—1½ Dr. R.W. Bray
J.W. Solomon	R.J. Murfitt
K.F. Wylie	C.H.L. Prichard

—1 D.R. Foulser	J. Haigh
P.W. Hands	B.A. Keen
S.R. Hemsted	L.V. Latham
S.J.H. Wright	R.N. McClean
	M. Ormerod
—½ P.J.M. Fidler	M.F. Phelps
G.E.P. Jackson	M.J. Stevens
B.G. Perry	A.E. Tapp
J.G.C. Phillips	M. Tapp
T.O. Read	J.A. Wheeler
Dr. G.J. Roberts	Dr. R. Wood
K.A. Ross	T.I. Wood
Dr. W.R.D. Wiggins	
	1½ L.D. Adams
0 S.M. Ballard	P.L. Alvey
D.J. Croker	M.J. Bushnell
R.A. Godby	A.F. Coleman
W.E. Moore	Mrs. H.B.H. Carlisle
G.W. Noble	Sir L. Daldry
D.V.H. Rees	Rev. W.E. Gladstone
J. Rose	C.G. Hopewell
J.H.J. Soutter	D.A. Harris
B.C. Sykes	J.S. Meads
S.A. Tapp	Dr. R.M. Milne
E.J. Tucker	Dr. D.I. Nichols
T.F. Owen	R.D.C. Prichard
Dr. I.G. Vincent	R.F. Rothwell
	E.E. Rees
½ E. Bell	A.A. Reed
I.D. Bond	J.C. Ruddock
L.S. Butler	Mrs. E. Rotherham
C.H.J. Cousins	C. Southern
N.J. Davren	R.S. Stevens
H.O. Hicks	R.F. Thorp
Mrs. B. Meachem	S.S. Townsend
J. McCullough	R.O.B. Whittington
P. Newton	
D.F. Strachan	2 J.E. Bardo
Dr. G.K. Taylor	J.S.H. Battison
E.C. Tyrwhitt-Drake	H.G.T. Bolton
Dr. B.G.F. Weitz	H.J. Bottomley
Dr. B.D. Yallop	N.W.T. Cox
	G.S. Digby
1 G. Birch	A.J. Girling
G. Borrett	Mrs E.M. Lightfoot
A.V. Camroux	F. Reynold
A.J. Cooper	R.A. Simpson
P.W. Elmes	G.T. Slater
H.C. Green	Mrs. B.L. Sundius-Smith
P.D. Hallett	Col. E.E. Vulliamy
D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller	Mrs. R.F. Wheeler
Dr. T.J. Haste	C.G. Pountney
M.J. Evans	S. Williams

So, if you happen to have been off form for some time, please do not be upset if the tournament handicapper or your club handicapper suggests that your handicap should be increased. The extra bisque or two will probably give you more success, and more confidence and this may lead to a handicap reduction in course of time.

I apologise for making Edgar Jackson look as though he signs his letter 'G.E.P. Jackson CBE!' Vide the last issue.

D.R.F.

Latest Grades

Details of the first 50 by current grade as at 31st July 1980

1. G.N. Aspinall	168	26. R.A. Godby	123
2. A.B. Hope	156	G.W. Noble	123
W. de B. Prichard	156	M. Ormerod	120
4. K.F. Wylie	152	C.H.L. Prichard	120
5. Dr. M. Murray	151	30. Dr. G.J. Roberts	119
6. S.N. Mulliner	149	31. I.D. Bond	118
7. R.J. Murfitt	148	J. Evans	118
S.J.H. Wright	148	33. G. Birch	116
9. Prof. B.G. Neal	145	E.J. Tucker	116
10. T.O. Read	144	35. J. McCullough	115
11. D.K. Openshaw	142	S.A. Tapp	115
12. M.E.W. Heap	141	B.G. Weitz	115
Dr. E.W. Solomon	141	38. L.V. Latham	113
14. J. Rose	140	39. G.E.P. Jackson	112
15. D.R. Foulser	136	A.E.C. Tapp	112
16. J.G.C. Phillips	133	Dr. G.K. Taylor	112
K.A. Ross	133	42. A.J. Cooper	111
18. Dr. W.P. Ormerod	132	B.G. Perry	111
19. S.R. Hemsted	131	44. Mrs. B. Meachem	109
D.V.H. Rees	131	45. L.S. Butler	108
21. J.A. Wheeler	129	46. T.F. Owen	107
22. D.J. Croker	128	R.D.C. Prichard	107
23. B.C. Sykes	125	M.J. Stevens	107
Dr. I. G. Vincent	125	49. M.J. Tapp	105
25. P.W. Hands	124	B.D. Yallop	105

The grades shown above were passed to the C.A. Selection Committee on 5th August together with the Average Grades List and other relevant information. The list does not include players who have not played singles in a tournament since 1978 such as R.W. Bray (130), N.J. Davren (114), P.J.M. Fidler (130) or Dr. W.R. D. Wiggins (109). There are 5 players who competed in the 'Eights' in 1979 whose names do not appear in the list:— H.C. Green (103), E. Bell (101), C.H.J. Cousins (101), A.V. Camroux (100) and P.L. Alvey (95).

Roving Eye

Roger Murfitt, who represented New Zealand in their test team in both 1974 in Britain, and last year in New Zealand arrived in this country, with his wife Mary, about three days before the Open Championships in July. Both Roger and Mary are mathematics teachers and hope to find teaching positions to enable them to stay here for approximately 18 months. It took Roger a while to recover from the arduous air flight, and to accustom himself to the cooler (and wetter) climate and slow heavy lawns (in comparison to New Zealand). Consequently he had one or two surprising defeats at the Opens but near the end of the week did some triple peels, and playing beautifully, won the Association Plate. He has joined Harrow Oak as he is living in London but is also a country member at Cheltenham. In 1981 he intends entering a large number of tournaments so most associates who play in official tournaments will have the opportunity to watch his skill at the game.

Steven Mulliner enjoyed an unbeaten run of 22 open games, stretching from 5th May when he lost to Keith Wylie in the semi-final of the Cheltenham Open Championship, to the 14th July when he was beaten in the 2nd round of the Open Championships at Roehampton —24, +22, —12 by David Foulser. During his tremendous unbeaten sequence he won both Draw and Process in the Roehampton Evening tournament and won all seven games at the Wrest Park Open weekend.

The Editor, himself, is getting married on 4th October to **Sally Foster**, and is wondering whether he may have found a mixed doubles partner. Sally, has been attending Paul Hands' coaching lessons at Cheltenham every Thursday evening.

Sextuple Peels were in vogue during late July and early August. **William Prichard**, the new Open Champion, was in cavalier fashion during the Compton Open weekend, attempting sextuples in all his games. Although he did not succeed, he got 5 peels done in one game. His President's Cup spot not being in doubt, through being the holder, **Eric Solomon** decided to attempt sextuples during the Hurlingham Cup. Having completed 5 peels in two matches, he finally brought off the prized sextuple in the play-off against **David Croker**. Despite his frequent lapses of concentration, **Paul Hands** showed recently what a master of the game he can be, if in the right mood. In a recent friendly match, he decided to keep his options open by trying to do a triple peel on the opponent's ball whilst, simultaneously attempting a quadruple peel on his partner ball. To achieve seven peels on one's partner ball is a feat rarely achieved but Paul managed to do the seven required and then stuck in rover himself from a relatively easy position.

News from Australia — In the 31st Australian Croquet Carnival Spencer Buck scooped the pool winning the Singles Championship of Australia (Wall Cup), the Men's Singles (A.C. C. Tray), the Doubles Championship of Australia (A.A.C. Salvors) and the English Medal Competition. The runner-up in both the Singles Championship and the Men's Singles was his father Peter Buck, who in partnership took the doubles. Spencer, now aged 25, is the first ever player to win all four titles. The carnival brought out many fine peeling performances — Spencer did 7 triples, Peter 4, Barrie Chambers 2, and Colin Pickering, John Magor and Brian Russell 1 each. Pride of place must go to a player who this country has not yet seen or heard much about — Peter Olsen of New South Wales who did a sextuple, a quadruple, a straight triple and two other triples. The sextuple was done in the English Silver Medal event against Tom Howat ending in a straight triple to win +26. In the Ladies Singles Miss Creana Dawson beat Mrs Lorraine Bray to take the English Cup.

Obituaries

F.W. Meredith

Players who were active in the 1950s and 60s will be sad to hear of the death of Eric Meredith at the age of 87. Though he lived at Cheltenham and played there regularly, he was a great traveller taking part in tournaments — croquet and, his other love, bridge — all over the country. Consequently, for getting on for two decades, he was a well known figure in the croquet world. Perhaps his gait got a touch older, his lean uprightness a little less so and his hearing went awry but his brain never. He remained as sharp as two pins with always his Irish wit bubbling through.

He was the winner of the Big Handicap in the first Veterans ever played. For this he presented a fine trophy — The F.W. Meredith Cup. There was great talk of enshrining the first winner as Eric Meredith, to confuse the historians of 100 years time. His explanation of being known as Eric rather than whatever F. or W. stood for was a delicious Irishism which I never could fathom!

A most engaging croquet companion, and a great loss to Bridge circles too.

K.H. Paterson

Kenneth Paterson, a prominent member of Colchester Croquet Club, died at his home in Kelvedon, Essex on 4th August after a long illness. Kenneth was an official referee and will be remembered as a sound tactician of the game. He took a leading part, in company with Ewart Whitehead, in the amalgamation of the Chelmsford and Colchester clubs in 1965, and the subsequent establishment of Colchester as one of the country's leading clubs.

Roy Alford

Ryde 62nd Annual Tournament 16–21 June

It seems an advantage if the writer of tournament reports manages not to win a game; this one made thirty hoops by Thursday evening in four games.

On the Monday morning it poured. The only 'cliff hanger' was between Mrs C.A. Parker and Miss Jean Wraith; people kept leaping up from the lunch table to report progress.

On Tuesday it rained off and on all day. There was a 'ding dong' between Puxon and Mrs Mann, who lost by four. The I.O.W. Championship produced no excitement; neither did the first round of the doubles, but in the afternoon Newman fils and Puxon played the B Class, and when, after several hours, they finished, they were told by the Manager (egged on by the writer), they would have to start all over again as they should have started at Hoop 3. Newman fils face fell. His mother, on the other hand, had defeated Mr Tomkinson in the X by 26 and by not using all her bisques, and then rubbed it in further by beating him in a "friendly" by 25.

Thursday morning brought a marvellous doubles semi-final between the Tompkins and Miss Wraith and Christopher Newman. When time was called, Mrs Tompkinson had run the rover and her husband was for the peg, with Miss Wraith also for the peg and her partner for rover. Mrs Tompkinson tried to peg out and failed with the forward ball, which was then about seven yards away. Christopher's rush was the wrong way round, but he took off to black, ran a long rover hoop and got the return roquet, pegged himself out and all was level. Mr Tompkinson missed the peg from near 4-back, and Miss Wraith landed within four feet of the peg. Mr Tompkinson then missed peg and ball and Miss Wraith, pegging out, triumphantly won on time.

On Friday there was a pegged out game in the final of the E Class Draw, Christopher Newman being the one baller, but he hit in and all was well.

There is a little green book, "Basic Laws of Croquet", which with Col. Prichard's "Commentary on the Laws", all tournament players should use. It could have avoided a severe miscarriage of justice on day one, and on two occasions when the croqueted ball in a half-crown cannon went off, the assumption by the players that this did not mean the end of turn.

The Newman family were a joy to watch, with beautiful styles and cheerful in adversity. They deserved to leave the Island with their cups and shorn of lots of bisques.

Such is the ambience of Ryde Tournaments, with its long snowy clothed lunch table, flowers galore, the Club President, dear Joe Orchard, ever-eager for everyone's pleasure, and newly enrolled members doing the teas. Arthur Rowlands, former hotel proprietor was catering manager and producing, seemingly effortlessly, all the meals as well as playing all the week.

Mrs Tucker managed highly efficiently; no fuss, all kindness, with everybody in play until Friday and everyone

knowing always exactly what was expected of them. It was a lovely tournament.

Results

Event 1. The Isle of Wight Championship: Challenge Trophy (played as American — one block) (4 entries)

Winner: G. Birch 3 wins

Runner-up: M.G. Tompkinson 2 wins

Event 2. Level Singles (B Class): Chapman Cup

Draw — Final: C.J. Newman bt R.W. Newnham +6

Process — Final: F.H. Newman bt R.W. Newnham +10

Play-off: F.H. Newman bt C.J. Newman +10

Event 3. Handicap Singles (C Class): Hutton Cup (played as American — one block) (4 entries)

Winner: Mrs F.H. Newman (9) 3 wins

Runner-up: F.A. Rowlands (15) 2 wins

Event 4. Handicap Singles X: Dibley Cup

Final: Mrs F.H. Newman (9) bt R.W. Newnham (6½) +8

Handicap Singles Y: Benest Cup

Final: Dr C.A. Parker (3½) bt F.A. Rowlands (15) +5

Event 5. Handicap Doubles: Birch Cups

Final: Miss J. Wraith & C.J. Newman (17) bt Mr & Mrs F.H. Newman (14½) +11

Roehampton Evening Tournament 22–30 June

A manager's nightmare: intermittent and often heavy rain throughout: a lawn unexpectedly withdrawn for much of the week, only to be partially flooded when made available again; too many players wanting leave on the last weekend for comfort; all conspired to make an already difficult tournament appear almost impossible to complete on time. Somehow, however, all was well; a tribute in large part to the players and their unbounded enthusiasm — how else could forty games be played on four double-banked lawns in a single day? With only a couple of shortened games in the "Y", and a single managerial scratching (in one half of the "C"s), all was finished in time for a 7 pm prizegiving on Sunday evening, at the end of a last day which almost felt like summer.

The star of the week was undoubtedly Hobbs, winner of both halves of the "B", the "X", and — in partnership with Mrs MacDonald — the doubles. Though his style is not perhaps from the classical mould, his relaxed shooting and easy break play made him all but unstoppable. Mulliner, winner of both halves of the "A", was made to fight harder for his reward, with several narrow escapes; Phillips too had a tough passage, losing —3 in one half after failing rover on a triple and nearly going out in the other half to Maude by a similar margin.

Cordingley, who could only play in one half of the "B", impressed with some good wins on his way to the second place prize, and Mrs Browne was particularly confident in the "C"s. Ormerod, who had earlier only narrowly missed defeating Mulliner in the "A", had a well-deserved win in the "Y".

The doubles were something of an innovation, with partners playing alternate strokes during a turn (but having the option of who should start it — except when a bisque was taken). Some earlier experimentation had suggested that the normal method of arriving at a pair's handicap gave an unfair advantage to those whose handicaps differed substantially, so a formula of "two-thirds low bisquer + one-third high bisquer" was used; this gave a partnership of a minus one with an eleven for example a handicap of 3 rather than 5.

The idea proved remarkably successful, and was particularly well received by the higher bisquers. Making each turn depend on the abilities of both players made a considerable difference to the tactics, and made matches a much truer test of one team against another. Mrs MacDonald, partnered by Hobbs, had a by no means easy path to victory; beating the Mulliners in the first round by only two with a peg-out after time had been called — in a game that could so easily have gone the other way — being one of several very close games in the event, and the final (narrowly lost by Mrs Jones and Gosden) a fitting conclusion to an interesting experiment. The games were if anything a little shorter than usual for this sort of event, and those which did reach the three-hour time limit were not far from completion; perhaps more familiarity with the peculiarities of this type of game would have made them quicker still. No doubt this format will be repeated in next year's tournament.

IB

Northern Championships. Bowdon 23–28 June

This was the second year of the Championships following their resurrection and proved again to be very enjoyable in spite of the slower lawns of the North. This was not helped by the all too frequent thunder storms that appeared on most days. One particularly violent storm was seen to put off more than one player from their normal fluent style with almost continual flashing and banging.

In line with last year all the hoops were set tight at 3 11/16" firmly placed in the ground. This made for many a "blob" on normally easy hoops.

The Tournament is obviously going to be a popular event judging from the increase in entrants to 24 this year compared with 14 last year. David Openshaw was attracted to play in the Open event with a promise to return in subsequent years. In spite of the large entry, most games were played without any time limits which led to one or two "marathons". However, the ever-vigilant Manager pushed through all the games on schedule with no delays on his planned timetable.

The Open event was a foregone conclusion in the eyes of most of the competitors, the main talking point being whether Openshaw would lose one game or none. In the event, Eddie Bell was the one who got it right. The main struggle therefore was between Bell and Keen for runner-up.

Openshaw worked his way through the event with easy wins mainly by sheer intimidation of his opponents (with no disrespect to his consistent standard of play). Without exception no-one was able to pick up and play an easy break until he met Keen in the final. Here Openshaw had the first real fight on his hands with Keen having both his clips on 4-back before being defeated. Openshaw did this with an excellent triple peel which seemed to be served to order especially for the gallery.

The handicap event was won by Ken Cotterell who won all his games without much difficulty and had his handicap adjusted accordingly after the Tournament. He did not fair so well in his class event as he was near the bottom on handicap. He did however give some amusement to the audience and some embarrassment to himself by forgetting that you can only peg out an opponent's ball if your own is a rover.

Perhaps one of the most striking features of the tournament was the large number of pegged out games, more than average being won by the pegging out side. There were no fewer than five such games in the doubles alone. The usual change in tension accompanying a three ball game seemed to be continually present adding to the excitement of the Tournament.

Three new players appeared consistently through the

events, these being Andrew Colin, Paul and Ian Drury. It seems likely that their names will be a regular feature in Tournaments to come.

To conclude on a slightly different note, a strong relationship has formed between the Club and Sale Grammar School. Croquet is now played there with a following of about 20, some of whom are also Bowdon members. This has been introduced by Dan Kelly (now at Manchester Grammar School) who is the Bowdon Treasurer. The school has two sets of equipment (although they have wire hoops) and croquet is permitted during school time. If this type of croquet could be established elsewhere, it would add considerably to its playing base extending that already established by industrial firms.

T.I. Wood

Budleigh Salterton 30 June — 5 July

This tournament was very well supported, and there were 25 visitors, including a formidable contingent of 10 from Parkstone. It was managed by Sarah Hampson, her first major tournament of management. On the whole the weather was quite kind, although Tuesday was a really wild day, and so cold after tea that play was halted somewhat earlier than was intended.

It was grand to see Bill Perry back in form, and in the final of the Class "A" event, he took his second ball round from Hoop 2, did a straight triple and finished the game, after an impeccable turn.

In the Class "B" event, Bob Carder's hitting-in was deadly all the week. The event had to be shortened, because of congestion, as per Regulation 20 d, and in the final against Ralph Bucknall, Bob got to the peg with his Red, and was poised to do Rover with Yellow, while Bucknall had made only 12 hoops, when Bob's ball stuck in Rover. Bucknall was able to get his Blue ball right round and, at the second attempt, pegged out Red from near the fourth corner. Then a game of hide and seek round the hoops developed, with Black getting to 4-Back gradually. This was peeled, but left a bit exposed to Yellow, which was near the Rover. Carder did one of his accurate hits, and that was that, winning by only +4 at 7.30 p.m. when, soon after 6 p.m., it looked as though he would win by +14.

The Class "C" event was also played as D & P, but with shortened games, the major factor being Enid Pursey's fine performance.

In the Big Handicap, several notables lost in the first round, including Betty and David Prichard and Pat Newton.

The Handicap Doubles provided a number of interesting happenings. In the match between the Soutters and Betty McMillan and Mr Shepard, all the clips were on Rover with time nearly expired. John Soutter hit in, separated his opponents, and laid up with a rush from the 3rd. corner. Unfortunately for him, he had overlooked the fact that he had given Betty a lift; she came up to the "B" baulk, time was called, and she had no difficulty in making the winning hoop. In another game, Dr Haste just failed to peg out his high bisque partner, but his ball rolled on to the peg, with the result that the Newtons, whose balls were together, had no difficulty in going out. Another interesting feature in the Doubles was Alan Parker's triple peel and peg-out of his daughter, who was partnering Les Butler. He then shepherded his wife (handicap 14D12) round from Hoop 5, while Butler, who had been on Hoop 4, could only reach 4-Back. Spectators were most intrigued to follow this closely fought game.

One of the most improved players of the year is Don Wallace, who scored notable wins over Les Butler in the Big Handicap, and over Christine Bagnall, Colin Edwards, and

Peter Devitt in the "B" level singles.

Woking 'Irish Week' 5—13 July

The revival of the Open Tournament last held in 1959, the Open Challenge Cup being then won by D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller, was signalled by a Wine Party on the Final Day of the first two Tournaments, followed by a 'happy' final of the 'X' and 'Y' Open Doubles, particularly the latter!

These tournaments, all separate and distinct, comprised the first weekend and following three evenings of open and level singles events plus open doubles and similar events on the Monday to Wednesday finishing at 6.30 pm and on the Thursday handicap doubles 'X' and 'Y' completing the fourth tournament on the Friday to Sunday inclusive with Handicap American singles. The last two tournaments are deservedly very popular indeed and are always filled by April with a long waiting list. It is hoped to accept more entries next year.

The only disappointments were the poor weather and the small number of entries in the two open tournaments partly due to a clash with the Wrest Park open weekend and partly because it was something new: some croquet players probably had not realised what a feast of croquet it comprised. Anyone entering for all four tournaments had a minimum of 16 games! We have also eliminated the frustrations of having time limits in the handicap singles by combining the two players handicaps and playing full games for those totalling 7½ or less, 22 points from 8 to 17½ and 18 points for those above. All games, except 2, were completed within 2½ hours. All players said they greatly preferred it to time limits. Robin Godby won the Open Challenge Cup which bears many distinguished names including both Recketts, Mrs Apps and Mrs Daniels. Mr D.C. Caporn presented a silver casket in memory of his mother for the level event and to his surprise and delight won it! The Open Doubles cups are a nice pair of silver goblets. The prizes in all the other events were shields which all the winners said they appreciated very much — much better than cash which passed over the bar! The catering was of a high standard. All competitors enjoyed themselves enormously with much fun, laughter and a noggling or two to keep out the rain! The Club hopes to repeat the four tournaments in one week again next year, and that more people will come and have a really enjoyable time at the happiest tournaments in the country under a genial manager.

Sussex County Summer Tournament 7—12 July

The Southwick Summer Tournament opened with rain, and more rain for the first two and a half days. In spite of the weather the competitors were not daunted and clad in the weirdist of garments battled with the unpleasant conditions.

Ian Vincent came once again to manage the Tournament and he did so with considerable skill to keep everyone playing throughout the week. The Open class was small so it was run as an American Draw and Process, and Ian emerged the winner of the Sussex Gold Cup losing only one game. The Final of the Doubles being all but a club event, one player was a visitor, took its normal course of in and out play; but the youngest member of the four managed a respectable break. The other three Class Events Finals went to three visitors with steady play throughout and Bernard Weitz won the Handicap X Event with some convincing wins.

The lawns were in such good condition — they have been rehabilitated in every way from last year, and some extremely hard work has been put into the maintenance of these lawns, and with this improvement the Southwick Tournaments should attract more A Class players.

Mrs K. Longman the President of the Club came to play and gave away the Cups and Prizes, she remarked that everyone had had a most enjoyable week and the catering was once again of the highest standard.

Colchester 7—12 July

Event 1, the Open Singles in the Colchester Club's annual tournament has in the past attracted a very small entry. One surprising effect of this is that in the last sixteen years there have been only three holders of the Colchester Bowl. These were Brian Lloyd-Pratt four times; Roger Bray four times and Michael Heap eight times, in 1968 and from 1973 to 1979. This year, in the hope of interesting players who might not be available throughout the week, the Club announced that this event would be played on Friday and Saturday only. A new Event 2, advanced singles open to players of handicap 1 and over was also introduced to be played through the week.

This innovation was successful in attracting Michael Heap, David Openshaw, Bryan Sykes and Stephen Wright who arrived on Friday morning; the field for Event 1 being made up to eight with Humphrey Hicks, Tim Haste, George Digby and David Wilson the last three of whom were also playing in Event 2.

Roger Bray, managing the tournament in succession to Edward Duffield, may have hoped that the three "outsiders" would be eliminated from the Opens in the early stages but this was not to be. Tim Haste knocked out Michael Heap in the first round of the Draw and went on to reach the final where he was beaten by Stephen Wright. Michael Heap was surprisingly beaten also in the first round of the Process (in fairness it must be said that he had only played three games previously in the season) and the finalists were again Wright and Haste. Once again Stephen emerged the victor so no play-off was required.

Tim Haste's name kept on cropping up in other events. Although beaten early in the Doubles he reached the final of the Big Handicap Y in which he was narrowly defeated and the final of both Draw and Process in Event 2. This completely overwhelmed the manager to the extent that Event 2 had to be completed on the Monday after the official ending of the tournament.

Anyone interested in statistics should study the results carefully and count the number of games which Tim Haste played during the week. It may not be a record but it certainly seemed as if he was continuously in play with the exception of short breaks for lunch or tea.

Among the other names prominent in the later stages of several events were Reg Girling, Richard Hilditch and Alan Nicholls all of whom reached more than one final and were successful in winning at least one.

The wet summer ensured that the courts were in perfect condition, if a little slower than usual. The Club has made a determined attack on the patches of clover which were so prevalent last year; if not completely eliminated they have been greatly reduced and the courts were evenly paced with no fast browns and sticky greens. The weather, of course, was not willing to relent during the tournament. It rained non-stop throughout Tuesday and Wednesday and the sun was not seen till Friday.

Apart from the weather, which not even the Colchester Club can control, everything else which goes to make a successful tournament was arranged with the accomplished competence which regular visitors to Colchester recognise as a feature of the week.

Hurlingham and Roehampton 14—19 July

The Open Championships

An accepted entry of 40 players in the singles this year was more truly representative than that of 1979. Notable absentees included Keith Wylie, (in his best form on the previous day in a match against Roehampton) Michael Heap, Andrew Hope and Paul Hands. Of the women players, only Veronica Carlisle challenged. In the opening round, four matches went against the form-book. Stephen Wright fell to George Noble; Steve Mulliner went down to David Foulser, who at a vital stage in the third game elected to shoot with his, normally speaking, "wrong" ball, hit and proceeded to victory; Graeme Roberts defeated Roger Murfitt, taking advantage of the fact that his opponent, having recently arrived from the New Zealand winter season, had played no croquet for several months. In the course of this match, Roberts accidentally wired his own two balls at Murfitt's hoop. Murfitt joined up near his partner ball. Roberts attempted to hit his wired ball by running the hoop but failed. Murfitt then missed a very short roquet! Finally, David Openshaw, the holder, lost to John Rose. Towards the end of a close third game when Rose, for peg and 2 back, was laid up in the fourth corner with a rush into the court, Openshaw lifted to B baulk and shot at his partner ball beyond hoop 2. He missed narrowly and Rose, playing with accuracy and confidence, went out in the next turn. A fifth upset also appeared imminent when Ian Bond so nearly had a second "twenty-six" in prospect against Nigel Aspinall. But in his final break he over-rolled his approach to 4 back and was never in play again. Aspinall, so often at his best when danger threatens, took this game in two all-round breaks and the final game in similar fashion. Other well-contested matches featured a narrow win for Vic Rees over Colin Prichard and a fine third game with triple peel by Ian Vincent against David Croker.

The third round brought a clash between Martin Murray and William Prichard, in which the play was of high quality. The final game was more closely fought than the score indicates, but here Murray was not hitting his long shots and Prichard progressed, by stages, to a clear-cut victory. Roberts and Rose with one game apiece to their credit matched each other stride for stride in the deciding game. Each in turn broke down at rover but the failure by Roberts proved more costly and settled the issue. In the fourth round, Aspinall once again had to pull out all the stops to get the better of Vic Rees in two marginal games where Rees began by reaching peg and penultimate before Aspinall had started. A fine display by both players. When Rose now opened with a "twenty-six" against Neal, it seemed that he was about to emulate the remarkable performance of David Croker last year. But here his success story was halted, for Neal replied with two quick games which gave his opponent no chances except to hit the lift-shot. The match between William Prichard and Eric Solomon recalled the conundrum of an Irresistible Force meeting an Immovable Object! In this instance, Solomon was the Immovable, and disconsolate Object seated on the side-lines, while Prichard, (to whom a BBC weatherman might have referred to as "Hurricane William") swept quickly and relentlessly to victory with two triple peels. A copy-book exhibition of croquet. Ormerod and Hemsted were locked in a hard and protracted struggle which produced good shooting, varied by mistakes on each side. A long third game finally ended in favour of Ormerod.

In the first semi-final Aspinall was too strong for Neal, who made a good fight in the opening game; and Prichard defeated Ormerod. Ormerod held a commanding lead in the second

game with both clips on 4 back, but then Prichard taking a calculated risk hit in with his backward ball and went round and out with a triple peel.

In the final, Aspinall took the opening game unchallenged and followed this by hitting with the fourth ball and placing his clip on 4 back. The ensuing lift-shot was of vital importance to Prichard. He hit, but stuck in hoop 1. Fortunately on his partner ball. Aspinall missed a long shot and Prichard, playing now with accuracy and confidence, finished the game in his next two turns with a triple peel. In the deciding game Prichard collected a good break from an unpromising position and advanced to 4 back. Aspinall promptly hit but surprisingly missed the first hoop — a mistake which was to cost him dearly. Prichard hit from hoop 2 with his forward ball and laid; and in his next turn went round to peg but with a single peel only, after trouble at penultimate. Aspinall, now facing his most vital lift-shot, aimed to hit his partner ball between hoop 2 and the corner — and missed by a fraction. But now Prichard's rush from the second corner cannoned into hoop 2, his approach was under-hit and there followed a period of tactical manoeuvring, until finally Prichard hit a very close double across the length of the court from the first corner to the third to win the match and his first Open Championship in spectacular style. His victory was indeed well merited. His play throughout the week was of a high and consistent quality, rich in triple peels, and he was hitting all the important long shots. It was good too, to see Aspinall back in his best form after a lean season in which his skill and interest had temporarily lost their momentum.

The opening round of the Doubles brought no surprises except that the impressive play by Humphrey Hicks with good support from Michael Stevens led to their defeat of Openshaw and Cousins. Eric Solomon and Foulser then took Aspinall and Ormerod to three games with a one point win after "time" had been called in the second game. Neal and Hemsted after a good match against Wright and Mark Ormerod faced William Prichard and Mulliner in the semi-final. In the first game they were given no chance but were heading for a clear win in the second, with Neal on the peg and Hemsted cruising smoothly round, when the latter suddenly missed penultimate, and though he hit in later with two balls at his hoop he failed again and Prichard with a 3 ball break made it game and match for his side. Murray and Murfitt advanced to peg and Penultimate against Aspinall and Ormerod in the other semi-final, but Aspinall then hit and went round, followed by Ormerod with an excellent triple to snatch the game from their opponents. They continued to have matters all their own way in the second, until Ormerod missed his peg-out. Murray then hit and began a brilliant break, during which he peeled his partner from 1 back to 4 back. But in aiming his croquet shot to make this peel and also to get beyond and behind a target ball for a long rush to 3 back, he just touched it and a gallant effort ended.

Final. After Aspinall, Ormerod and William Prichard (with a fine hit on his partner ball in rover) had gone round in turn, a failure by Mulliner at hoop 1 decided the opening game. Both sides now had their chances. Aspinall missed 1 back and Mulliner went round. Ormerod hit but failed to make progress. Prichard, after an interval of negative play, advanced from hoop 2 to penultimate and then went out, when the lift-shot had been missed. In the deciding game Mulliner hit with the 4th ball and placed his clip on 4 back to which Aspinall followed. Ormerod then had the innings but missed a roquet after hoop 2. Prichard hit a long shot and set up a fine break with a triple peel to win the match and the 1980 Championship with Mulliner.

Murfitt, Murray, Mulliner and Stephen Wright were the four contestants concerned in the closing stages of a strong Plate. When Wright disallowed a finely executed long split shot, saying that he had double tapped, Murfitt was given an initial advantage which swung the game decisively in his favour. He then went on to defeat Mulliner unchallenged in the Process final. Meanwhile, Wright was again the loser in the Draw final. Here a bad failure at hoop 1 enabled Murray to take his backward ball from hoop 5 to the peg with two peels. The play-off provided a most entertaining game. Murray laid with perfect accuracy for a sextuple at the end of his opening break. Murfitt shot and missed: whereupon Murray missed his 4 yard roquet! Later he hit in but failed to run hoop 3, and Murfitt went round with his second ball to win in his next turn, thus proving convincingly the rapid improvement in his play during the course of the week. Good wins in earlier rounds were recorded by Foulser against Murray, Alvey against Murfitt and by Vincent and Croker. Puzzle of the week — how did Ian Bond, who so nearly eliminated Aspinall, lose in the Plate to Mike Pearson and then to Doughty? Our thanks to Graham Martin, who plotted his daily programme charts with patience, wisdom and skill. Fortune smiled on him until Friday, when some clouds began to gather and assumed threatening proportions during Saturday. But in the end, all was well and the Open Championship of 1980 with upwards of 25 triple peels, came to a close shortly before 9.00 p.m.

Open Championships

Event 1. Singles (41 Entries)

First Round. G.J. Roberts bt R.J. Murfitt -9 +10 +11, M. Ormerod bt A.V. Camroux +11 +23, R.A. Godby bt E.Bell +23 +5, B.G. Neal bt H.O. Hicks +20 +22, Dr I.G. Vincent bt D.J. Croker +24 -2 +26 (stp) B.G. Perry bt Dr W.R.D. Wiggins w/o, Dr E.W. Solomon bt G.E.J.A. Doughty +10 +19, R.D.C. Prichard bt J. Haigh w/o.

Second Round. G.W. Noble bt S.J.H. Wright +24 +7, D.V.H. Rees bt C.H.L. Prichard -15 +16 +4, G.N. Aspinall bt I.D. Bond -26 +4 +26, D.R. Foulser bt S.N. Mulliner +24 -22 +12, J.Rose bt D.K. Openshaw +5 -23 +5, Roberts bt M.J. Stevens +18 +18, Godby bt Ormerod +26 +12, Neal bt Vincent +22 +17, Solomon bt Perry +15 +11, R. Prichard bt M. Pearson +20 +7, Dr M. Murray bt J.G.C. Phillips w/o, W. de B. Prichard bt T.F. Owen +8 -5 +11, S.R. Hemsted bt C.H.J. Cousins +12 +24, D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller bt Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle +24 -22 +8, Dr W.P. Ormerod bt P.L. Alvey +18 +26 (tp), J.A. Wheeler bt Dr. R. Wood +10 +12.

Third Round. Rees bt Noble +25 +16, Aspinall bt Foulser +17 (tp) +24, Rose bt Roberts -4 +7 +4, Neal bt Godby +16 -2 +15, Solomon bt R. Prichard -1 +14 (tp) +24, W. Prichard bt Murray -26 +26 (tp) +25, Hemsted bt Hamilton-Miller +19 +17, Ormerod bt Wheeler +26 +16.

Fourth Round. Aspinall bt Rees +4 +3, Neal bt Rose -26 +26 (tp) +26 (tp), W. Prichard bt Solomon +26 (tp) +26 (tp), Ormerod bt Hemsted -6 (ot) +20 +15.

Semi-Final. Aspinall bt Neal +16 +25 (tp) W. Prichard bt Ormerod +13 +8 (tp)

Final. W. Prichard bt Aspinall -26 +17 (tp) +25.

Event 2. Open Doubles (16 pairs)

First Round. W.de B. Prichard & S.N. Mulliner bt R.A. Godby & C.H.L. Prichard +17 +23, J.A. Wheeler & D.V.H. Rees bt T. F. Owen & A.V. Camroux +15 -9 +16, M. Ormerod & S.J.H. Wright bt Dr W.R.D. Wiggins & D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller +10 -5

+16, B.G. Neal & S.R. Hemsted bt R.Wood & B.G. Perry +19 +25, Dr M. Murray & R.J. Murfitt bt G.J. Roberts & I.D. Bond -11 +25 (tp) +26 (tp), H.O. Hicks & M.J. Stevens bt C.H.J. Cousins & D.K. Openshaw +24 +1 (ot), Dr E.W. Solomon & D.R. Foulser bt P.L. Alvey & D.J. Croker +20 +17 (tp), G.N. Aspinall & Dr W.P. Ormerod bt G.W. Noble & Dr I.G. Vincent +26 (tp) +24.

Second Round. Prichard & Mulliner bt Wheeler & Rees +10 +15, Neal & Hemsted bt Ormerod & Wright -15 +12 +20, Murray & Murfitt bt Hicks & Stevens +24 +23 (tp), Aspinall & Ormerod bt Solomon & Foulser +26 (tp) -1 (ot) +14.

Semi-Final. Prichard & Mulliner bt Neal & Hemsted +26 (tp) +3, Aspinall & Ormerod bt Murray & Murfitt +4 +9.

Final. Prichard & Mulliner bt Aspinall & Ormerod -26 +17 +15 (tp).

Event 3. Association Plate (entries 22)

PLAY-OFF. R.J. Murfitt bt Dr M. Murray +15 (TP)

DRAW

Winner. Dr M Murray bt (2) T.F. Owen +20; (3) M.G. Pearson +25; (SF) Dr I.G. Vincent +25 (TP); (F) S.J.H. Wright +17.

Runner-Up. S.J.H. Wright bt (1) C.H.J. Cousins +20; (2) M. Ormerod +10; (3) P.L. Alvey +26; (SF) S.N. Mulliner +14. **S.N. Mulliner** bt (2) A.V. Camroux +25; (3) G.W. Noble +8. **Dr I.G. Vincent** bt (1) R. Wood +13; (2) D.J. Croker +26 (TP); (3) R.D.C. Prichard +23. **P.L. Alvey** bt (1) M.J. Stevens +11; (2) R.J. Murfitt +4. **R.D.C. Prichard** bt (2) C.H.L. Prichard +19. **M.G. Pearson** bt (2) I.D. Bond +5. **M. Ormerod** bt (1) G. E.J.A. Doughty +16. **R.J. Murfitt** bt (1) Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle +13. **D.J. Croker** bt (1) D.R. Foulser +22. **C.H.L. Prichard** bt (1) B.G. Perry +7

PROCESS

Winner. R.J. Murfitt bt (2) B.G. Perry +22; (3) D.R. Foulser +17 (TP); (SF) S.J.H. Wright +25; (F) S.N. Mulliner +26 (TP).

Runner-Up. S.N. Mulliner bt (1) T.F. Owen +13; (2) M.J. Stevens +18 (TP); (3) Dr R. Wood +25; (SF) D.J. Croker +17 (TP). **S.J.H. Wright** bt (1) M.G. Pearson +25. (2) Dr I.G. Vincent +5; (3) A.V. Camroux +17. **D.J. Croker** bt (2) G.E.J. A. Doughty +17; (3) G.W. Noble +19. **D.R. Foulser** bt (2) Dr M. Murray +4. **A.V. Camroux** bt (1) R.D.C. Prichard +19; (2) P.L. Alvey +15. **G.W. Noble** bt (1) C.H.L. Prichard +20 (TP); (2) Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle +9 (TP). **Dr R. Wood** bt (2) C.H.J. Cousins +16. **Dr M. Murray** bt (1) M. Ormerod +24 (TP). **G.E.J. A. Doughty** bt (1) I.D. Bond +26.

Cheltenham Open Tournament 21-27 July

Are you the type of competitor who is unwilling to take a week's holiday to play in a croquet tournament, because there is a risk that you may have only 4 or 5 games during the week? If so, you should enter for the 7-day July Tournament at Cheltenham. Players this year were guaranteed a minimum of 9 games. The class events were played in American blocks of 5, with a play-off later for the block winners and runners-up; the big handicap was an XYZ event; and the doubles — a splendid innovation this — was run as an XY competition, giving another 2 games. A further joy was that there were no time limits (except in the Y and Z singles and a generous 3½ hours for the 22-point doubles games). Although one singles game was recorded as taking 5¼ hours, most were finished in under 2½ hours and Colonel Wheeler and Kitty completed each of their three doubles games (win or Lose) in under 1½ hours.

It must be admitted that not all competitors welcomed the innovations. A limited amount of double banking was necessary and this was not popular with players who come from the palmier parts of the croquet empire and do not know how the other half plays! Cheltenham's committee, however, are to be congratulated on having the courage to experiment with new formats for their Open Tournament: there are (happily) still plenty of traditional competitions for those who prefer a more leisurely progress and less croquet.

Despite extra difficulties caused by several late withdrawals due to illness, the whole programme was managed by Edgar Jackson with his usual polychromatic efficiency. Our enjoyment was enhanced by the fortunate fact that, after weeks of dismal weather, summer actually arrived as the tournament began.

The 6 entrants for the Open event played in one American block, with the winner decided by the ordinary rules, so spectators were denied any A class 'final' in the usual sense. The crucial game in this block turned out to be that between Terence Read and Bernard Neal. Neal started a triple peel of his opponent, but broke down after the first peel. This mistake allowed Read to take his other ball to the peg, but Neal got in and went round, pegging out Read's ball and giving contact. From this, Read got position for penultimate but failed it after Neal had joined wide. This enabled Neal to go round with his other ball and win an exciting and closely-fought game. Since this was the only defeat for Read, while Neal lost only to Paul Hands, they each finished with 4 wins. But Read took the Cheltenham Challenge Cup (for the fifth time) — perhaps rather unsatisfactorily — on hoop points scored. Incidentally, his mother, Nancy Read, won the fourth group in the class events, and a welcome new visitor from Ireland, Carl von Schmieder, took the Y singles, so three victories went 'overseas'.

As the week progressed, three young players seemed to dominate the lawns: John Gosden, Tom Griffith and 14-year old Mark Avery.

Gosden's long stall for even the shortest rush or hoop paid dividends, as he found himself in three finals and won two. His careful play earned him the Money Saver for the B class event: in the semifinal, he beat von Schmieder and, in the final, Stephen Hoole.

Avery's smooth play and confident hitting are a pleasure to see. He had already won the Calthrop Cup (beating 16-year old Gregory Solomon in the semifinal and Carol Chard in the final), when he came up against John Gosden in the final, from 48 entrants, of the big handicap for the Daniels Cup. Mark nearly won this by 26. Using all his bisques, he had got his second ball to 3-back and executed his rover peel, although only after having had to run a hair-raising 1-back hoop and then make a roquet on the ball in the jaws of rover. When he broke down, however, John went round and pegged out Mark's ball. After much jockeying for position and attempted wiring, Mark eventually shot from corner 4 and hit a ball near 2-back that was not completely hidden. After confidently running another two longish hoops at 4-back and penultimate, Mark won a well-deserved victory by 6. But he left the tournament 1½ bisques the poorer!

Tom Griffith is another elegant and improving player. He beat Sos Roe in the C class final for the Asa-Thomas Trophy and he and John Gosden together won the Barwell Salvagers for the doubles.

There was one other amusing game that is worthy of a brief mention. In the Z final, Gregory Solomon peeled Edgar Jackson's ball through rover and made three attempts to peg it

out without success. Eventually, it was Edgar who was able to peg out both Greg's ball and his own, leaving his opponent 7 hoops behind in the 2-ball game, but with 4 bisques still standing. This was certainly good tactics and would probably have succeeded had not Edgar failed a fairly easy hoop at penultimate. But it was Gregory who emerged the winner.

Compton Open Weekend 26-27 July

Block A. **M.J. Stevens** (6 wins) bt J.G.C. Phillips +23, G.J. Roberts +13, Cdr. G. Borrett +24 (TP), E.J. Tucker +9, E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake +3, Dr. R. Wood +13. **Phillips** (5 wins) bt Roberts +23, Borrett +24, Tucker +3, Tyrwhitt Drake +5, Wood +14. **Tucker** (4 wins) bt Roberts +11, Borrett +13, Tyrwhitt Drake +13, Wood +23, **Roberts** (3 wins) bt Borrett +21, Tyrwhitt Drake +4, Wood +23. **Tyrwhitt Drake** (1 win) bt Wood +23. **Borrett** (1 win) bt Tyrwhitt Drake +22. **Wood** (1 win) bt Borrett +14.

Block B. **J. Rose** (5 wins) bt S.N. Mulliner +13, Dr B.D. Yallop +5, M. Ormerod +22, W. de B. Prichard +7, A.F. Coleman +16. **Mulliner** (4 wins) bt Yallop +24, Ormerod +23 (TP), C. Prichard +26 (TP), Coleman +26. **W. Prichard** (4 wins) bt Mulliner +3, Yallop +1, C. Prichard +20, Coleman +22. **Ormerod** (4 wins) bt Yallop +15, C. Prichard +10, W. Prichard +3, Coleman +2. **C. Prichard** (2 wins) bt Rose +7, Coleman +3. **Coleman** (1 win) bt Yallop +17. **Yallop** (1 win) bt C. Prichard +3.

Play-off: **Rose** bt Stevens +16.

Notes

1. William Prichard delighted the spectators by attempting several sextuple peels, even though none was successful. His best effort was against Alec Coleman when he completed five peels.
2. The only triples came from Michael Stevens, the outright winner of his block, and Steven Mulliner, runner up in the other block.
3. John Rose played steady, careful croquet to win his block and then the play off: there were no attempts at peeling finishes and several times he won after his opponents had broken down whilst peeling.
4. Despite a very heavy downpour on Saturday morning the courts were quite fast.
5. At an excellent Chinese meal on Saturday night Michael Stevens introduced many to the delights of saki.

Hurlingham 31 July-9 August

The account of the Hurlingham tournament in past years dwelt on its complexity, with 3 doubles events, and all 5 singles events being on a two life basis. This year the web looked like being more tangled since a further doubles event had been added to the programme, and the B, C and D class events were to be run on American block lines. Fortunately, the management was in the capable hands of Nigel Aspinall and Sarah Hampson. We are accustomed to the perfectionist performances of Nigel on the lawns and these were abundantly translated to the managerial tent. His brows and those of Sarah were a little furrowed towards the middle of the tournament, when having achieved a daily average of well over 3½ games per lawn, "bodies" rather than "games" became the controlling factor, but by Thursday matters had been so competently advanced as to admit of complete relaxation.

Eric Solomon stood out like a beacon shining amongst the entries for the Hurlingham Cup. He tried a sextuple peel in virtually all his games but achieved it only once, in the play-off against David Croker, thus providing ample revenge for David's 26 point win over Eric earlier in the event. Eric was a shade fortunate to reach the play-off, as in the final of the Process, in the most exciting game of the tournament, he prevailed by one point only against Barbara Meachem, the lady champion

failing at the rover in the dying minutes of the game. The lady had some recompense later in the Ladies Field Candlesticks, regaining with Lady Bazley the trophies they last won in 1977.

A noteworthy welcome feature of the tournament was the Hurlingham debut of a handful of youngsters, two of whom, Philip Cordingley and Mark Avery, enjoyed considerable success. The former, who had profited from Eric Solomon's sage tuition, won both the big handicap (60 entries) and the B. class Turner Cup, while Mark, still at the tender age of 14, carried off two doubles events. Indeed, he could have fared better in his singles games had he not experimented with triple peels. He successfully finished a triple in the Turner Cup against Tom Colls, surely the first achieved outside the A class in tournament play. A great future is predicted for this young man whose handicap, now reduced to 3½, may well be lower by the same time these words appear in print. Another newcomer, but more of a senior generation, Paul Macdonald better known in the tennis world, reached three finals only to be beaten in all of them. In the Wine Coolers Men's Handicap Doubles Chris Cousins and Mark Avery were at the peg with both balls before Paul and Arthur Lindley had scored a point, but with the use of their remaining 2½ bisques they caught up to within four points before Chris hit in with what would probably have been his last shot of the game.

In 1981 the four cricket field lawns will not be available for the first week-end of the tournament which will necessitate some modification either in the programme of events or the maximum number of entries that can be accommodated. The Hurlingham Croquet Committee will be shortly addressing themselves to the problem.

Nottingham 11-16 August

The excellent club facilities were augmented as usual by the bowling greens — which become two of the truest croquet lawns in the country for the duration of this tournament. This year the lawns were appreciably slower than usual due to wet weather — which otherwise made surprisingly little impact on the proceedings. Once again, we all enjoyed a thoroughly splendid week.

On the first two days there were unusually many close and interesting games. Geoffrey Taylor began his campaign in the big handicap with two wins by +2 against Buck Bucknell and Andrew Bennet. In the first game Geoffrey didn't score a point until his opponent was for peg and peg. But although he lost this one, Buck went on to contest the 'Y' final on Saturday having played well all week. John McCullough was another early victim of Taylor's brinkmanship, reaching 4 back and peg in the first round of the Open Draw, again before his opponent started, but losing in the end. Many of John's games were close-run things, with the victor usually emerging from behind. On Tuesday morning in the Robin Hood Cup (an extra event for C.A. associates) he made good a deficit of 18 points to beat Ian Wright by +3; but more often he seemed to succumb to such tactics himself. After an excellent season the handicapper has perhaps caught up with him for a while. Round 3 of the 'X' saw an entertaining 2 ball finish between Ian Vincent and Alan Girling which Ian won, despite permitting his opponent's clip to progress from hoop 6 to penultimate in the time it took him to score rover. Meanwhile a remarkable family duel in the Opens (Draw, second round) saw Roger Wheeler (handicap 5) round to 3 back in the third turn against his wife Dab. Dab missed the fourth shot, Roger took his partner ball to 4 back in the fifth turn and ran out the winner by +19.

By Tuesday evening John Meads was the only undefeated player. He had a very successful week, reaching the Open Draw final and Process semi-final, in each case putting out the winner of the other half of the competition. He also competed his first tournament triple peel to beat Taylor by 15. George Noble was the only other successful triple peeler of the week and he completed 4 — plus a double peel on the opponent against George Henshaw in the Robin Hood cup (which George Noble won, beating Tim Smith in the final). An enterprising attempted triple came from Roger Wheeler in the 'X' semi-final against Vincent. Ian played a standard fifth turn but stuck in hoop 2; Roger hit and went to 4 back: Ian missed: Roger took one bisque to get the break and completed the three peels but unfortunately needed a second bisque to peg out and win by 24 with three bisques standing. A solid, if less spectacular, victory by 24 over Taylor in the 'X' final was a just reward for Roger's enterprising play throughout the week.

After a shakey start on Monday, Ray Jones emerged as the winner of both halves of the 'B' levels, where his final victims were Julian Straw and Nancy Lenfestey. The 'C' class was wide open at the semi-final stage. Eve Chamberlain's victory in the process final averted an all-Gosden play-off for the trophy which was ultimately won by Ron Gosden. Another first time visitor to win a cup was Simon Garrett who was successful in the 'Y' — an incentive to return next year, we hope! Four different players appeared in the finals of the Open singles. In the Process George Noble produced one of his triples to dispose of Ian Wright (who, happily, has recovered much of his former prowess after a couple of indifferent seasons) whereas Geoffrey Taylor employed his mastery of the psychological struggle to overcome John Meads by 4. There was nothing psychological about the play-off, however, in which Taylor beat Noble by 23 to cap a very successful week.

The Doubles Cups were the only ones to be retained by the holders. The final game gave good value to the Saturday afternoon spectators, both on account of its length (well over four hours) and because, in the writers opinion, pegged out games make the best spectacles. In the previous round Alan Girling and Ray Jones had survived the one ball side of a three ball game but this time their interests lay on the other side of the contest. With the bisques gone, Alan pegged out Don Lenfestey's ball with wife Nancy on rover and Ray on hoop 3. In the cat and mouse struggle which followed, Nancy hit in once but failed to make her hoop enabling Girling and Jones to win by 2.

No account of this tournament would be complete without a tribute to the Manager, Ian Wright. With an extra event (the Robin Hood Cup) already in the programme he still managed to run a 'Z' in the big handicap and an American block for players out of everything by Friday. In addition he maintained his enviable record of never having scratched a player from any event. We are all grateful for his hard work and the amiable way in which he carries it out.

Ladies Field Cup Rochampton 18th to 22nd August

After a long rain soaked summer, the ladies were very pleased to have a fine dry week with plenty of sunshine every day. Because of the wet summer the lawns were in excellent condition, no bare patches and completely covered by lush grass. The groundsman did an excellent job of mowing the lawns every morning and setting the hoops in accurately every day. However the ladies found the lawns rather slow and had some difficulties in getting used to the speed of the lawns. Since all the ladies were capable of making all round breaks,

the tension mounted, and too much safety play was indulged in, for example doing fine take offs, leaving balls on borders and corners, and very few attempts to set up 4 ball breaks. The safety play and good hitting in contributed to the length of the games. Of the 30 games played only 9 finished in under 3 hours, and 6 games took over 4 hours.

I was amazed at the number of hits the length and width of the lawns by all of the players.

After 3 rounds Mrs Meachem was in the sole lead with 3 wins. She continued to lead throughout the tournament, losing only two games both narrowly to Mrs Wheeler her main challenger. Many of the games were very closely fought, over half being decided by a single figure difference. The main highlights were: — Mrs Meachem on her 4th game went from hoop 2 to 4 back, then from hoop 5 to the peg with a three ball break. On her 10th game went from hoop 1 to 4 back, then later began an all round break and triple peel, but having peeled her ball through 4 back, was unable to get a rush after hoop 4 or 5 and broke down at hoop 6. Then after a further 2 hours play Mrs Wheeler managed to win by plus 2. Mrs Meachem in her 8th game played a good all round break with her 2nd ball and beat Miss S. Hampson by plus 23.

Mrs Wheeler in her 2nd game got round to 4 back in two turns and later tried a triple peel, she succeeded in peeling through 4 back but was unable to peel through penultimate and broke down on 2 back. Later attempting a straight double peel she succeeded the penultimate peel but on the rover peel her peeled ball stuck in the hoop and she had to try a jump shot and missed giving the innings away but eventually won by plus 16.

Mrs Asa Thomas on her third game, managed a difficult 3 ball break round to hoop 6 and later played a very good 4 ball break to 4 back, but on concentrating on the lay up wired her opponent by the peg then on the take off to her own ball played the wrong ball, but eventually beat Mrs Wheeler by plus 9. Mrs Asa Thomas in her 8th game against Mrs Wheeler was well ahead and should have won but on laying up left her opponents ball by hoop 2 (needed by Mrs Wheelers other ball) placed her two balls on the B Baulk giving her opponent the lift shot. Mrs Wheeler then played a 6 hoop break and a peel through penultimate and won by plus 7.

On round 5 Mrs Sundius-Smith got round to rover in two breaks, then much later got round to 2 back, then round to rover and peeled her other ball through rover but missed the rush back to the peg, but won by plus 14.

A few male visitors turned up and made a few sarcastic remarks about the length of the games but I noticed that when they played later in the evening they did not play any faster than the ladies.

A very pleasant and enjoyable tournament, which went off very smoothly and without any problems. G.B. Martin

Ladies Second Event Southwick 18-22 August

This event which is the brain child of Mrs W. Longman was very much enjoyed by four newcomers to the invitation events and one very experienced and another fairly experienced competitor. The new-comers gained valuable experience and their play improved considerably during the week. Mrs Longman was very pleased to present her trophy to the winner Mrs N.W.T. Cox, and expressed her hope that the event would become a regular fixture in the croquet calendar so giving an opportunity to not less than six ladies who are not selected for the Field Cup to play in an invitation event.

"LADIES FIELD" CUP 1980	Series	Mrs B. Meachem	Mrs R.F. Wheeler	Miss S.G. Hampson	Mrs B.L. Sundius-Smith	Mrs E. Asa Thomas	Mrs B.G.F. Weitz	TOTAL GAMES WON	FINAL ORDER
Mrs B. Meachem	1		-7	+4	+23	+2	+7	8	1
	2		-2	+23	+18	+25	+9		
Mrs R.F. Wheeler	1	+7		-3	+4	-9	+16	7	2
	2	+2		-6	+8	+7	+10		
Miss S.G. Hampson	1	-4	+3		+11	+9	-2	6	3
	2	-23	+6		+19	-1	+8		
Mrs B.L. Sundius-Smith	1	-23	-4	-11		+14	+4	4	4
	2	-18	-8	-19		+12	+21		
Mrs E. Asa Thomas	1	-2	+9	-9	-14		+12	3	5
	2	-25	-7	+1	-12		-5		
Mrs B.G.F. Weitz	1	-7	-16	+2	-4	-12		2	6
	2	-9	-10	-8	-21	+5			

LADIES SECOND EVENT	Series	Mrs N.W.T. Cox	Mrs D.M.C. Prichard	Mrs C. Bagnall	Lady Bazley	Mrs L.A. Coombs	Mrs J. Povey	TOTAL GAMES WON	FINAL ORDER
Mrs N.W.T. Cox	1		-20	+14	+12	+15	+1	9	1
	2		+1	+19	+15	+13	+13		
Mrs D.M.C. Prichard	1	+20		-9	+23	+20	+16	8	2
	2	-1		+9	+20	+25	+19		
Mrs C. Bagnall	1	-14	+9		-3	-3	+5	4	3
	2	-19	-9		+19	+3T	+9		
Lady Bazley	1	-12	-23	+3		-3	+2	3	=4
	2	-15	-20	-19		-7T	+12T		
Mrs L.A. Coombs	1	-15	-20	+3	+3		-10	3	=4
	2	-13	-25	-3T	+7T		-7T		
Mrs J. Povey	1	-1	-16	-5	-2	+10		2	6
	2	-13	-19	-9	-12T	+7T			

The lawns at Southwick were good and the sea-side weather almost perfect. The ability of the players to make long roquets was well above average so upsetting to the best laid plans, but some times the fact that short roquets and indeed very short roquets were missed was outstanding. Perhaps it was the lack of experience which accounted for the inability of some of the players consistently to make reasonably good breaks which is such an essential part of first class play.

Mrs Cox is to be congratulated on some very neat and tidy play which was consistently free from mistakes. If she were to become more venturesome to make bigger breaks, she would probably more definitely ensure her success in the future. As it was she seemed to have more than her share of the luck which may not always be relied upon to run her way. Mrs D.M.C. Prichard made at least one all round break and attempted a three ball triple but soon broke down on a return roquet. Her enthusiasm rubbed off on to all who were close-by and helped considerably to make the week so enjoyable for all. Mrs J. Povey was unfortunate in having more than average near loses in her games. Perhaps at times she played too quickly a fault so often not to be discouraged as the majority of the play seemed much too slow. Mrs C. Bagnall, Lady Bazley and Mrs H. Coombs are all to be congratulated on some good play and it is hoped that they will progress to more good play in the future. Their powers of endurance were phenomenal. The hours they spent on the lawns from near sunrise to after sunset would have defeated many a male. Perhaps tiredness was the

reason why several lifts were forgotten both giving and receiving. At least one contact was inadvertently conceded.

One of the objects expressed by Mrs Longman for conceiving the event was to give experience to ladies aspiring to play in the Field Cup. This object was well achieved for at least the majority of the ladies who competed. The event must be continued and a suitable name should be given to it. In future perhaps the ladies events will be known as "The Field Cup" and "The Kay Bowl"

Tristram Owen

Bowdon 22-25 August

This year there were 36 entries, a record number, including players from as far afield as Brighton and Edinburgh. An extra lawn was hired in nearby Denzell Gardens to accommodate them, and as usual double-banking was used throughout. The standard of play was noticeably better than in previous years, though some of the low-bisquers were sometimes, to put it mildly, off form. It was especially encouraging to see so many young Bowdon players doing well. Eddie Hopkinson, playing in his first tournament and shooting fearlessly at everything, won his block and deserved his handicap reduction. There were several instructive examples of the pegged-out game; Steve Lewis made a feature of this. At least one triple peel was attempted, though none completed. John Rose however almost completed a double peel in his game with Martin Atkinson, but unfortunately roqueted his partner ball in running rover. He attempted a 'combination peg-out' which failed, giving his opponent a lift with a ball in baulk. But it was not long before he hit the peg. The Collin brothers from Chester as usual played well, though surprisingly neither won his block. George Collin had a good win (+26) against John Meads, who was allowed only three shots and never took croquet. Ken and Margaret Cotterell have both made great strides since they came to Bowdon as their first tournament last year. The two with most points, Bill Aldridge and Steve Lewis, played off for the Reed Cup, though both were probably too nervous to be at their best. Lewis caught up some way after Aldridge had pegged out only one ball, but not enough to prevent Aldridge from emerging the winner. Fine weather throughout made this a very enjoyable weekend.

Cheltenham W/E III 23-25 August

The tournament was blessed with good weather on all three days with many players playing in short sleeved shirts and several taking to shorts by Sunday. Although the weather was all that could be expected the standard of play has been described as variable with only three minus players participating in the six blocks. Each player played two games each day, with only two of the forty two entrants managing a 100% record over the three days. Stephen Hoole and David Foulser were the successful players. David's six wins produced an aggregate score of 72 points, which playing off his new handicap (-1) must have been an encouraging sign for his forthcoming inaugural appearance in the President's cup.

Simon Garrett would have been the third player with a 100% record, although he continued to lose the last match of the tournament by a small matter of 2 to Mrs Anderson. Simon committed the cardinal sin of not 'going back to mother' when his opponent had laid a rush to the peg from the boundary. Simon missed his shot, Mrs Anderson missed her peg out with the forward ball, pegging out the back ball, Simon missed his final shot and that was that. One person not at all amused was Lawrence Latham who had recorded five wins in the same

block only to be edged into third place behind Simon, and Mrs Anderson on points.

George Blumer did a highly efficient job in managing the tournament particularly in view of the fact that this was his first attempt.

S.J.W.H.

Hurlingham W/E 23-25 August

This event, originally designed to keep Hurlingham croquet players off the roads at the Bank Holiday weekend, was played for the first time as a Croquet Association fixture, in glorious weather and was an unqualified success. Moreover it attracted some very welcome entrants from as far afield as Budleigh Salterton, Cheltenham and even wildest Woking. It was efficiently managed in a relaxed manner by Edward Doughty, on a short leave from military duties in Northern Ireland, on a system believed to be a mixture between the Swiss, Patagman and Shankhill Road type of tournament. It certainly produced some exciting and enjoyable games.

The dark horse was a Cheltenham entrant, Tom Griffith, said to have been playing for only one year, and already a seriously under-handicapped 3½. As he succeeded in beating Robin Godby (including his first ever triple peel) and nearly beating Bernard Neal (in a friendly) it is confidently hoped that his handicap will be smartly adjusted. He also beat the Woking wonder (Derek Caporn) in one round but under the Shankhill Road system, Derek had another go in the final (having defeated the author of this note +4 in the Shankhill process). Derek forgot to take his half bisque in both his matches against Griffith but won the final anyway.

Tom Griffith is a classics master at Marlborough and it is confidently expected that he will redress the balance of mathematicians, computerists and engineers (consulting, professional or straight) who have been dominating the game recently. In the final of Griffith v Caporn a point arose which baffled even Professor Neal. Griffith pegged out one of Caporn's balls which then rebounded and prevented Griffith's ball from hitting the peg which it would otherwise have done. Can a "dead" ball prevent another from pegging itself out or should the ball that did the pegging out be deemed to have hit the peg? Commonsense says "no" to the latter and so the Professor ruled, but the pundits say the laws are doubtful, though one would have thought the point would have risen before. They will be talking about little else in the Shankhill Road, until the Laws are amended to cover the point clearly.

Brian Bliss

Croquet Thoughts

If you think you are beaten, you are
If you think you dare not, you don't
If you'd like to win, but think you can't
It's almost certain you won't.
If you think you'll lose, you've lost
For out of the world we find
Success begins with a fellow's will —
It's all in the state of mind.
If you think you're outclassed, you are
You've got to think high to rise
You've got to be sure of yourself before
You can ever win a prize.
Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man
But sooner or later the man who wins
Is the one who Thinks he can.

PRESIDENT'S CUP	Series	G.N. Aspinall	S.N. Mulliner	A.B. Hope	D.K. Openshaw	Dr. E.W. Solomon	D.R. Foulser	W. de B. Prichard	B.G. Neal	TOTAL NUMBER OF WINS	FINAL ORDER
G.N. Aspinall	1		+17	-23	+7	+3	+25	+13	+25	11	1st
	2		+14	+26	-9	+26	-22	+17	+3		
S.N. Mulliner	1	-17		-4	+17	+24	+15	+26	+15	9	2nd
	2	-14		+26	+16	-3	+17	+5			
A.B. Hope	1	+23	+4		-8	-20	+25	+7	+8	8	3rd
	2	-26	-26		-5	+4	+26	+26	-17		
D.K. Openshaw	1	-7	-17	+8		-14	-2	-14	+2	7	= 4th
	2	+9	-16	+5		+16	-9	+12	+17		
Dr. E.W. Solomon	1	-3	-24	+20	+14		+26	+26	+17	7	= 4th
	2	-26	-16	-4	-16		+12	-13	+17		
D.R. Foulser	1	-25	-15	-25	+2	-26		-17	-24	5	= 6th
	2	+22	+3	-26	+9	-12		+21	-16		
W. de B. Prichard	1	-13	-26	-7	+14	-26	+17		+14	5	= 6th
	2	-17	-17	-26	-12	+13	-21		+10		
B.G. Neal	1	-25	-15	-8	-2	-17	+24	-14		4	8th
	2	-3	+15	+17	-17	-17	+16	-10			

* = Triple Peel
** = Triple Peel 5th turn
*** = Quadruple Peel 5th turn

President's Cup — Hurlingham 2-6 September

Concluding the report of last year's President's Cup, Betty Prichard wrote "to quote Aesop, 'slow and steady' this year 'wins the race' but next year it could equally be the turn of the grasshopper". In the event, however, "sure and steady" now proved the winning combination, admirably displayed from beginning to end by Nigel Aspinall and enabling him to ward off the strong persistent challenge of Steve Mulliner and finally drew clear in the last three rounds. His play throughout was of a consistently high standard with six triple peels and one which failed the peg-out. Of the three games which he lost, only one — against Openshaw — was due to an expensive error. On the other two occasions, Hope and Foulser struck the first and last blow and the lift shot was missed.

Mulliner maintained a fine record of attacking croquet, with two particularly brilliant games concluded in the fifth turn, but he fell twice to Aspinall and played badly against Foulser in the 13th round. Hope and Eric Solomon had a good first series and were then engaged in a struggle for third position, which Hope finally took after he had defeated his rival in an exciting 9th round match. Openshaw, as last year, was at his best in the second series when he came with a late run of four consecutive wins to finish with seven. William Prichard defeated Neal and Foulser twice, and Openshaw once but his mallet here just lacked the magic touch of the Open Championships week, so that he finished in sixth place with Foulser. Foulser, after a punishing first series, fought back with great determination and accurate play to take his score eventually up to five. On his debut the narrower hoops posed problems but it was a promising first appearance with wins over Aspinall, Mulliner, Prichard and Openshaw (twice). Neal with four wins recovered from an unhappy first series to achieve three successive victories over Hope, Foulser and Mulliner, and then to play a fine game against Aspinall which he was unlucky to lose so narrowly.

Tuesday: Mulliner was quickly off the mark, defeating Solomon and Prichard decisively, and Foulser, who offered resistance; Aspinall however dropped a game to Hope, was fortunate not to lose to Prichard, who, had started a triple,

and he then had to hit the final lift shot against Solomon to save the game. No less than four matches were lost by the leading player who broke down in his second break. On three of these the opponents went out in two consecutive turns with a triple peel (Aspinall, Openshaw and Solomon). Foulser won a close and exciting game against Openshaw. With the other three clips on the peg, Foulser hit in with his backward ball, made the last three hoops, rushed an enemy ball to the first corner after making rover, and took off to his partner ball on the south boundary a few feet away. Leaving a ball in baulk, he rushed his partner ball through the first hoop to peg out successfully from a distance.

Wednesday: Mulliner v Aspinall; here, two slips of an unusual nature by Mulliner decided the issue. First, he played with the wrong ball and then, after hitting the lift shot and going around to 4—back he left one of his opponent's balls against the wire of the 4th hoop, with his own balls adjacent on a rush line. Aspinall after careful inspection decided that he could hit this target playing through the hoop and with an accurate gentle roquet did so and went out with a triple! He continued with two more wins against Foulser and Openshaw, whose winning chance disappeared by a failure at 4—back involving an attempted peel. Mulliner now dropped a point against Hope, which both players deserved to lose! Prichard played his best game of the week against Openshaw, hitting the first lift shot and then winning handsomely in two turns with a triple. Neal and Foulser were forced to mark time today.

Thursday: Aspinall and Solomon had quick wins with triple peels. Mulliner was on a similar target but broke down at his rover peel, and Openshaw went to 4—back. A failure at the first hoop subsequently by Openshaw gave Mulliner the innings and the game. Hope and Prichard shared similar difficulties in advancing their second ball, but Hope finally drew away to win a close encounter. And so at half way the score was Aspinall 6, Mulliner, Hope and Solomon 5, Prichard 3, Openshaw 2, Neal and Foulser 1.

Features of the second series were a run of five wins by Openshaw, four admirable wins by Foulser and three by Neal, while Mulliner — twice briefly, drew level with Aspinall. The day ended with two further successes for Mulliner and Neal and one for Aspinall, Openshaw, Hope and Foulser. Solomon and Prichard failed to score. A game of remarkable brilliance was played by Mulliner against Prichard, who hit with the second turn. Mulliner then hit with the third turn and made a 3—ball break to 3—back. Prichard hit with the fourth ball and went round to 4—back. Mulliner hit the lift shot and in the fifth turn of the match went round and out with a quadruple peel: Openshaw played his best game of the week in defeating Aspinall, who missed a cut rush when victory was near at hand. Openshaw established a break with his backward ball and playing with great accuracy went round and out in that turn with a triple peel. A close and exciting match between Hope and Solomon ended with Hope — one ball pegged out — hitting a wired ball with a long shot and finishing from penultimate.

Friday: Foulser began the day with a convincing win against Prichard and then struck gold with a decisive victory over Aspinall. Neal had the better of a level game with Mulliner, in which both players had difficulties with their second ball. At one point both, in turn, missed a short roquet but after this Neal made no mistake and went clear to score a good win. The two leaders then each registered a "26" win against Solomon and Hope respectively. Openshaw was now making up the lee-

way, with determination and after defeating Neal and Prichard went on to win a close match of good croquet against Hope by hitting the final lift shot. Thus when Prichard with two nice breaks had settled the issue of an even game with Solomon, we came to round 12 and the return match between Aspinall and Mulliner. The former, in his first break failed to run the sixth hoop and Mulliner advanced to 4—back. Aspinall missed the lift shot and Mulliner was now in a strong position, but a breakdown at the fourth hoop with his second ball proved serious. Aspinall went round to 4—back and placed his opponent's forward ball on the wire of the sixth hoop and the backward ball adjacent to the fourth hoop, leaving himself a rush to the sixth from the boundary level with the second hoop. Mulliner, to the surprise of the spectators and his adversary, elected not to move his ball at the sixth hoop but shot at it with his other ball and missed. Aspinall then advanced to the peg, having done only the 4—back peel and again left an exactly similar leave. Once more Mulliner made the same reply; leaving his "danger ball" up against the sixth hoop, he lifted to 'B' baulk and shot at it, difficult though the target was, being partially obscured by the wire. He missed, and Aspinall made his four remaining points with ease, to stand "one up with two to play". Hope and Solomon each added to their score in this round at the expense of Foulser and Neal.

Saturday: Aspinall quickly disposed of Hope +26 with a triple peel, so attention then focused upon Mulliner's match against Foulser. If Mulliner was to win the event he had to beat Foulser and then Openshaw, Aspinall to lose his last game to Neal in order that a play-off could ensue. Mulliner, with the strain no doubt telling on him, against an opponent who had knocked him out of the Open Championships earlier in the season, was making heavy weather of his game with Foulser, who in turn seemed unwilling to profit by his opponent's mistakes. But when Mulliner had reached peg and rover, Foulser hit a long lift shot from 'A' baulk at the enemy balls laid up on the boundary level with the second hoop and proceeded to launch an attack which took him to 4—back. Mulliner missed the short lift shot, and Foulser, starting from the 4th hoop achieved victory with a delayed triple peel! A most admirable and exciting transformation. One error by Solomon in his second break gave Openshaw the chance that he required to win a good game with a triple peel. Prichard finally got home against Neal, who struck back with great determination after his opponent had reached peg and rover in two accurate breaks.

In the final round Aspinall, having now won the 1980 President's Cup, gave another masterly exhibition of winning a game from scratch in two turns against an opponent whose clips were on peg and rover, yet how well Neal played. This was indeed a model display of croquet with four all round breaks, in which winner and loser alike share the credit. Of the remaining matches, Hope allowed Prichard only a single lift shot before doing his first triple peel in the event; Mulliner halted Openshaw's run of victories; and Solomon treated us to five peels of a sextuple against Foulser.

So we came to the end of a most enjoyable and well contested "President's Cup, in which this year there was no "tail". Neal with four wins would have been two places higher last year. To sum up, one might aptly recall George Orwell's delightful phrase in "Animal Farm" — "all animals are equal but some are more equal than others"! Unusually all eight players did at least one triple peel and when each day's play was over, how agreeable was the finale, in musical terms "Eight to a Bar".

Sadly, we missed Martin Murray this year and the presence of Roger Murfitt from New Zealand would have been a rewarding, and perhaps, illuminating experience. Veronica Carlisle, with an array of coloured pencils to keep the charts up to date, managed with charm and an untroubled efficiency.

D.J.V.H.M.

CHAIRMAN'S SALVER	Series	D.V.H. Rees	D.J. Croker	P.W. Hands	S.R. Hemsted	B.C. Sykes	J.G.C. Phillips	Dr. I.G. Vincent	R.A. Godby	TOTAL NUMBER OF WINS	FINAL ORDER
D.V.H. Rees	1		-16	+3	+10	+10	+11	+3	-8	11	1st
	2		+3	+24	+4	-14	+21	+11	+15		
D.J. Croker	1	+16		+18	-3	+16	+14	+25	+15	10	2nd
	2	-3		+3	+15	+4	-5	+16	-13		
P.W. Hands	1	-3	-18		+3	+23	+8	+15 tp	+7	7	3rd
	2	-24	-3		-26	-20	+21 stxt	+13 tpo	-8		
S.R. Hemsted	1	-10	+3	-3		+15	-3	+4	+17	7	3rd
	2	-4	-15	+26		-3	+5	-13	+15		
B.C. Sykes	1	-10	-16	-23	-15		+13	+13 tp	+8 sttp	7	3rd
	2	+14	-4	+20	+3		-12	-14	+14 tp		
J.G.C. Phillips	1	-11	-14	-8	+3	-13		+5	+19	6	6th
	2	-21	+5	-21	-5	+12		-21	+2		
Dr. I.G. Vincent	1	-3	-25	-15	-4	-13	-5		+9	5	7th
	2	-11	-16	-13	+13	+14	+21		+19		
R.A. Godby	1	+8	-15	-7	-17	-8	-19	-9		3	8th
	2	-15	+13	+8	-15	-14	-2	-19			

tp denotes triple peel

sttp denotes straight triple peel

tpo denotes triple peel on opponent

stxt denotes sextuple peel

Chairmans Salver — Colchester 1—5 September

As it is now customary in tournament reports not to lavish praise on the lovely fast, flat lawns; the gorgeous food provided by the local club members; and the marvellous weather enjoyed all week — I won't, but I will mention George Digby — who somehow managed to keep us in check, and Edward Duffield — both as referee and replacer of divets (won't mention any names — but you might ask Bryan Sykes) scooped-up during play.

Croquet? Well let me report it day by day — to build up the excitement!

Monday. David Croker and Vic Rees both finished the day with 3 wins. David played particularly well to beat Ian Vincent +25 and then Bryan Sykes +16. With David on 4—back and peg Bryan at last got in and round to 4—back, but a disastrous split-shot after hoop one with his second ball sent one off the boundary (not good) — David gratefully finished the game. Vic Rees played steadily all day, but might have lost to Paul Hands had not Paul tried a cunning (his word, others thought stupid!) 'jump-cannon-peel' at rover — it failed. Vic won +3. The holder, John Phillips, was pegged out by Steve Hemsted in the first round, but after a few misses hit in to win +3 — Steve managing to fail rover 3 times in between.

Tuesday. David Croker comfortably beat Vic Rees in the battle of the 100%ers, but had to fight hard to win against John Phillips. In the evening Steve Hemsted did beat David (to the relief of the rest of us — who could envisage nothing but wins for 'the Croke' all week). It looked to be an easy win for Steve until David hit a superb 'last-shot' (a speciality of his, it appears) to swing the game his way. However, with his part-

ner on peg, David stuck in rover — Steve hit the lift to win +3. Robin Godby beat Vic Rees +8 to chalk up his first victory — only to find Bryan Sykes in excellent form in his next game, Bryan completing a fine straight-triple peel. This was Bryan's second triple of the day, the other against Ian Vincent. Poor Ian was later 'robbed' by Vic Rees, who twice hit 'last-shots' to eventually win +3.

Wednesday. David Croker had a very good day — winning all 3 games to move to 8 overall (out of 9), 2 more than his nearest rivals Vic Rees and Steve Hemsted. David was at his 'last-shot' brilliant best and had 2 scrapes — +3 against Paul Hands, and then +4 against Bryan Sykes (we were beginning to wonder just what you have to do to beat this chap). Both these games had been seemingly lost. Steve Hemsted won his 3 games on the day, playing perhaps best against Paul Hands in the evening — winning +26 in 3 turns (the old 4—back, peg, and out routine). John Phillips was not enjoying his morning game with Vic Rees — John didn't take croquet for 2 hours and 5 minutes while Vic staggered round to penult and 2—back. Not a lot happened when John did take croquet! The local press turned up at the club at about 12 noon — and Paul Hands (who had earlier made 9 separate one-hoop breaks to reach 4—back) immediately played some good croquet so that the photographer could get an 'action-shot' of a peg-out! Pity for Paul that the press weren't there all week!

Thursday. This was the day the tournament came alive. David Croker at last looked beatable — and was (twice). John Phillips beat him +5 in a game of missed chances — both failed hoop 6 with partner ball positioned for the penult peel, but 'twas David who made the final error, running 4—back too well, and missing the return roquet. Ian Vincent narrowly failed to triple against Bryan Sykes — rolling onto his partner ball at rover — but won +14. John Phillips pegged out Robin Godby (Robin's other ball for 4—back) but having got to the peg with his second ball failed to roll up hard enough, thus being unable to peg out even one ball. A feeble attempt to do so left him cross-pegged (giggles from the pavilion). Robin took his lift, hit the peg and rebounded onto a ball (more giggles). He then made 4—back and penult — only to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory by sticking in a one-foot rover hoop. (laughter from the pavilion). The day's most vital game was the last to finish — in semi-darkness. David Croker had (as usual) hit in when Vic was lined up to go out, and proceeded to get both his balls round — but he stuck on the wire at rover which enabled Vic to win by 3. This meant that both had 9 wins (Steve Hemsted came next with 7) so that there was all to play for on the morrow. For those of us drifting out of contention (if we were ever in it?) games were now in lighter vein. One such game saw Paul Hands complete a remarkable sextuple-peel against John Phillips. It began with a tricky rush-peel through one-back (the peelee had been nearly a foot in front of the hoop) but was made to look very easy afterwards — especially as the penult peel went through rover as well! Thus all the peels were done before making 3—back (in which he very nearly stuck — gasp). This cheered up the local spectators — who had been a little disappointed with the standard of play seen in some games.

Friday. Who was going to win the Salver? Well, on paper at least, David Croker appeared to have the better chance, for he faced the bottom 2 players, Ian Vincent and Robin Godby, while Vic Rees was to play Steve Hemsted and John Phillips. Results proved this not to be the case. Both had won their morning games easily, and it seemed inevitable that a play-off was coming. This was reckoning without Robin Godby's

customary 14th round win however — Robin played very steadily to beat David Croker +13. David could never get his teeth into this game. All eyes now focused on the Vic Rees — John Phillips clash (John still smarting from their first serious encounter). Vic was always in command of this game and won +21 to become winner of the whole event. His delight was obvious as he held his mallet aloft in triumph.

Vic may not be the most exciting player to watch — but he makes very few mistakes, and it was this which enabled him to win the Salver. Our congratulations go to him. Sympathy goes to David Croker — who had looked the likely winner all week, only to be pipped on the post. The Chairmans Salver was played in a super atmosphere and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. My own lasting memory is being told by Bryan Sykes to roll my trousers up to my knees so that he could referee a shot. Having done this turning up of trousers I couldn't see the ball properly beneath them and my shot was a foul — I should have known that Steve Mulliner wore those odd trousers of his for some reason other than just looking daft!

Paul Hands

SPENCER-ELL CUP										
	Series	I.D. Bond	J.R. McCullough	G.W. Noble	M.J. Stevens	G.E.P. Jackson	M. Ormerod	E. Bell	L.S. Butler	TOTAL NUMBER OF WINS
I.D. Bond	1		+5	+20	+17	+5	+20	+4	+1	13
	2	-17		+26	+16	+25	+26	+10	+16	
J.R. McCullough	1	-5		+13	-2	+8	+26	+11	+6	12
	2	+17	+11		+4	+18	+23	+19	+19	
G.W. Noble	1	-20	-13		+21	-26	+3	+5	+10	8
	2	-26	-11	-25		+12	+24	+25	+11	
M.J. Stevens	1	-17	+2	-21		-23	+20	+10	+5	7
	2	-16	-4	+25	-14		+14	+24	+21	
G.E.P. Jackson	1	-5	-8	+26	+23		-5	-13	+3	6
	2	-25	-18	-12	+14	+13		-10	+17	
M. Ormerod	1	-20	-26	-3	-20	+5		+26	+5	5
	2	-26	-23	-24	+14	-13	+15		-4	
E. Bell	1	-4	-11	-5	-10	+13	-26		-23	3
	2	-10	-19	-25	-24	+10	-15	+7		
L.S. Butler	1	-1	-6	-10	-5	-3	-5	+23		2
	2	-16	-19	-11	-21	-17	+4	-7		

tp denotes triple peel

The Editor regrets that at the time of going to print the Spencer Ell Cup report had not been received, but will be published in the Winter Gazette.

Know The Game — Croquet

The new edition is due to be available from the end of September 1980. The retail price will be 70p, but will be available from the CA Office at 60p plus postage (single copy 13½p).

Secretary's Notes

Handicap Alterations

Challenge & Gilbey (Budleigh) 9–14 June

R.L.S. Berkeley	8	to	7
M. Granger Brown	3½	to	2½
J.R. McCullough	1	to	½
R.A. Pierce	7	to	6
Mrs R.S. Stevens	7½	to	7
D.C. Wallace	8	to	7

Southwick weekend 13–15 June

L.B. Barnes	9	to	8
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Edgbaston weekend 20–22 June

A. Collin	5½	to	5
Mrs D. de Q. Lenfestey	6	to	8

Hurlingham (Club) 28 June

A. D'Antal	5	to	7
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Compton 9–14 June

G. Borrett	½	to	1
R.P. Chappell	6	to	5
N.W.T. Cox	1½	to	2
Miss B.E. Dennant	11	to	10 (D8)
Mrs G.F.H. Elvey	3½	to	4
Miss E.X. Hodgens	6	to	5½
Mrs A.E. Millns	9	to	8
Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake	6½	to	5½
R.E. Wallis	3½	to	3

Hurlingham (Club) 4 July

Miss B. Duthie	4	to	5
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Bowdon (Northern Championships) 23–28 June

W.O. Aldridge	9	to	7
Mrs J. Ashton	12	to	12 (D10)
A.J. Collin	5	to	4
K. Cotterell	8	to	6½
A.G. Gordon	11	to	10
E.E. Scott	5	to	4½

Parkstone (Club) 25 June

F.L. Shergold	8	to	7
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Nottingham weekend 27–29 June

Mrs C.A. Chard	7½	to	7
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Southport weekend 24–26 May

Miss E.K. Hawkins	8	to	10
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Budleigh Salterton 30 June – 5 July

Major G.B. Horridge	7½	to	8 (before play)
Mrs C. Bagnall	4½	to	4
C. Edwards	4	to	5
Miss S.G. Hampson	3	to	2½
Dr. T.J. Haste	2	to	1½
S.G. Jones	3	to	2½
Dr. C.A. Parker	3½	to	3
Mrs C.A. Parker	14 (D12)	to	13 (D11)
Miss P.E. Parker	7½	to	7
Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard	1½	to	2½
Mrs D.M.C. Prichard	2	to	3
Mrs E.M. Pursey	8	to	7½
D.C. Wallace	7	to	6
Mrs D.C. Wallace	11	to	10

Hurlingham (Club) 13 July

Mrs B.L. Sundius-Smith	½	to	2
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Veterans (Compton) 23–28 June

Capt. F. Tucker	9	to	8
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Roehampton Evening 22–29 June

Mrs W.J. Browne	9	to	8
P. Cordingley	6	to	5
R.M. Hobbs	4½	to	2½
Mrs I.P.M. McDonald	10	to	10 (D9)
Mrs S.N. Mulliner			16 (D14)

Colchester 7–12 July

Dr. D.B. Wilson	4	to	3 (before play)
J.R. Hilditch	*4		(before play)
Dr. T.J. Haste	1½	to	1
J.R. Hilditch	*4	to	3½
Lt. Col. A.W.D. Nicholls	4½	to	4
Dr. D.B. Wilson	3	to	2½

Southwick 7–12 July

L.B. Barnes	8	to	7
Mrs N.W.T. Cox	3½	to	3
Miss B.E. Dennant	10 (D8)	to	9
Miss P. Shine	9	to	8
Mrs B.G.F. Weitz	3	to	2½

Woking 5–13 July

D.C. Caporn	4½	to	4
W.B. Denison	3	to	2½
J.S. Maude	3	to	2½
A.J. Oldham	7½	to	9
R.J. Smith	7	to	6½
Mrs M.G. Tompkinson	11	to	10
Mrs L. Wharrad	13	to	12

Open Championships (Hurlingham) 14–19 July

D.R. Foulser	-½	to	-1
R.J. Murfitt			-1½
S.N. Mulliner	-1½	to	-2
J. Rose	½	to	0
R.D.C. Prichard	2	to	1½
W. de B. Prichard	-2½	to	-3
S.J.H. Wright	-½	to	-1

Handicap Co-Ordination Committee 19 July

P.W. Hands	-2	to	-1
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Hurlingham (Club) 23 July

H.B.H. Carlisle	1½	to	2½
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Ryde 16–21 June

C.J. Newman	8	to	7
F.H. Newman	6½	to	5½
Mrs F.H. Newman	9	to	8
R.W. Newnham	6½	to	5½
F.A. Rowlands	15	to	13

Cheltenham 21–27 July

M. Avery	6	to	4½
Mrs C.A. Chard	7	to	6½
Rev. W.E. Gladstone	0	to	1½ (Club)
J. Gosden	3	to	2½
T. Griffith	4	to	3½
Miss F. Joly	2	to	3
Mrs H.M. Read	7	to	6½
Miss I.M. Roe	5	to	4½
M.T. Paddon	12	to	10 (Club)

Edgbaston (Club) 27 July

A.E.R. Watkins	11	to	10
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Harwell (Club) 1 August

Mrs K. Cotterell	14	to	11
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Himley Hall 12–13 July

A.G. Gordon			10 (D9)
L.H. Hawkins	4	to	3
A.C. Mason	12	to	10

Hurlingham 31 July – 9 August

Mark Avery	4½	to	3½
Lady Bazley	5	to	4
P. Cordingley	5	to	4
J. Haigh	0	to	1
Mrs S.R. Hemsted	4	to	3½
Judge A.D. Karmel	1½	to	3
Dr. M. Kolbuszewski	5	to	4
Mrs W. Longman	5	to	7
J.R.N. Lyle	12 (D10)	to	10 (D8)
I.P.M. McDonald	8	to	7
Mrs I.P.M. McDonald	10 (D9)	to	10 (D8)
Lt. Comdr. R.M.D. Ponsonby	14	to	11

Nottingham 11–16 August

A. Bennet	4	to	5
Dr. R.C. Jones	5½	to	4½
J. Meads	2	to	1½
Lady Porter	10	to	12
C.G. Pountney	1	to	2
Dr. T.W. Smith	4½	to	4
Dr. G.K. Taylor	1	to	½
Dr. R.F. Wheeler	5	to	4½

Cheltenham Trophies 8–10 & 16–17 August

Mrs S. Blenkin	14	to	13
Mrs K. Cotterell	11	to	10
T.G.S. Colls	5	to	7 (before play)
P.M. Johnson	3½	to	2½
Mrs V. Worsley	12	to	14
Mrs K.G. Yeoman	7½	to	6½

Hurlingham weekend 23–25 August

G.E.J.A. Doughty	3	to	2½
T. Griffith	3½	to	2½
J.G.O. Miller	9	to	8

Bowdon weekend 22–25 August

W.O. Aldridge	from 7	to 5
A. Collin	from 4	to 3½
K. Cotterell	from 6	to 5½
Mrs W. Hague	from 8	to 7
S.E. Lewis	from 5	to 4

Southwick 25–30 August

Mrs C.A. Chard	from 6½	to 5
A.F. Coleman	from 1½	to 1
P.A. Derryhouse	from 10	to 9
Mrs P.A. Derryhouse	from 11 (D10)	to 10
I.C. Meredith	from 9	to 8
M.F. Phelps	from 1	to ½
Rev. C.H. Townshend	from 6½	to 5½

Budleigh Salterton (club recommendations) 27 August

S.F. Blackler	from 11	to 10
Mrs G.H. Mapstone	from 7	to 6
B. Redford	from 5	to 4

Hunstanton 25-30 August

Miss J. Assheton	from	7	to	6½
M. Avery	from	3	to	2½
J. Carlisle	from	16(D14)	to	13 (D12)
R.A. Gasden	from	9	to	8
Dr D.A. Parker	from	3	to	2½
D. Turner	from	4	to	3½
J.O. Walters	from	11	to	9

New Associates

(due for election by Council on 18th October)

R Miss M.G. Anderson, 61 Surrenden Road, Preston Park, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 6PQ. (rejoining).

R David H. Bunkell, 22a Constitution Hill, Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 4BU. Tel: (0603) 408187.

R N.W. Groves, c/o 29 Holman Road, Aylesham, Norfolk, NR11 6BY.

R R. Digby-Clarke, Borrowdale, 97 Upland Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5JA. Tel: 01-642-0826.

J M.J. Coward, 25 Staplehurst Road, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 9AR.

J J.R. Hilditch, 169 Morton Way, Southgate, London, N14 7AL. Tel: 01-

R Joseph P. 12 Eresby House, Rutland Gate, London SW7 1BT.

Deaths

Miss Dorothy E. Rogers (Ryde)

Kenneth H. Paterson (Colchester)

New Handicapper

D.R. Foulser

New Referee

J.A. McCullough

Changes In The Clubs

Carrickmines

New Secretary: Miles B. McWeeney, 6 Hainault Grove, Foxrock, Co. Dublin. Tel: 894364.

Ryde

Acting Secretary: R. W. Newnham, Ford Cottage, Brighstone, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 4DJ. Tel: (Brighstone) (0983) 740531.

Longman Cup**3rd Round**

Ellesmere bt Bowdon 3-2

Walsall bt Chester 4-1

Oxford University bt Bath 4-1

Edgbaston bt Harwell 3-2

British Airways bt Southwick 3-2

Harrow Oak bt Hurlingham 4-1

Hunstanton bt Colworth 4-1

AWRE Aldermaston bt Phyllis Court 4-1

4th Round

Walsall bt Ellesmere 3-2

Oxford University bt Edgbaston 3-2

Harrow Oak bt British Airways 5-0

AWRE Aldermaston bt Hunstanton 3-2

Inter-Club Championship**2nd Round**

Cheltenham 1 bt Reckitt Club 5-4

Compton bt Southwick

Harrow Oak bt Phyllis Court W/O

Hurlingham bt Cheltenham 2 4-3

Hunstanton bt West Park 4-3

Nottingham bt Colworth 7-0

Roehampton bt Bowdon 7-0

Colchester bt Woking W/O

3rd Round

Cheltenham 1 bt Compton 6-1

Hurlingham bt Harrow Oak 4-3

Nottingham bt Hunstanton 6-1

Roehampton bt Colchester 5-2

Semi-Final

Cheltenham beat Hurlingham 4-3

Roehampton beat Nottingham 4-3

Amendments

Duplicated copies of amendments to THE LAWS OF ASSOCIATION CROQUET AND GOLF CROQUET AND THE REGULATIONS FOR TOURNAMENTS, 3rd Edition 1972, and D.M.C. PRICHARD'S COMMENTARY OF THE LAWS OF CROQUET, Revised Edition 1973, are available on request from the C.A. Secretary. Laws amendments include those up to March 1980 and those on the Commentary up to August 1980.

C.A. Handicaps

Is it in any way correct to say that there is no such thing as a C.A. Handicap inasmuch as the Croquet Association does not allot handicaps? Clubs allot handicaps to their members and a player is not allowed to play off any higher handicap than 16 (D14) in C.A. events, or Calender Fixtures, whichever term you choose to use.

There is at least one club which will not accept entries for its' Weekend Tournaments from applicants with a higher handicap than 14. This is based on the idea that it is hardly fair to charge a substantial entrance fee, to somebody who perhaps comes 200 miles to the Tournament and pays for expensive hotel accommodation, and that one of his games in a Weekend Tournament should be against a nominal 16 handicap player, whose handicap is nearer 36 than 16!

The C.A. Co-ordinates handicaps, and can, and does approve or disapprove of alterations to handicaps that are made by Clubs subsequent to Tournaments, or as a result of improved play by a player. The player may or may not even be a member of the Croquet Association but can play in Tournaments which are not restricted to C.A. members. Any change of a Non-Associate's handicap is recorded on the prescribed form, after a Tournament by the Tournament Secretary and is published in the Gazette.

Therefore, the writer contends that there is no such thing as a C.A. Handicap, and is trying to make the point because of difficulties which arise when a player, be he or she an Associate or not, belongs to one club and wishes to join another. One club may stick to a maximum of 16 (D14) handicap, and give this handicap to somebody who should have a much higher number of bisques to use to help him to be able to make a reasonable contest with a low bisquer. This is why Cheltenham Croquet Club for one, gives club handicaps up to 24 and makes a great point of trying to teach beginners how to use bisques, and in fact, to use the full bisque game as so strongly

advocated in John Solomon's book on croquet.

10 bisques for instance are given to a player to assist him to play as a scratch player using his bisques correctly. Therefore two 10 bisquers playing each other should both use their ten bisques in order to help them play a game comparable to two scratch players.

But let us see more clubs giving handicaps of over 16 and more instruction in the use of bisques, and one hopes no heart-burning when somebody joins a club, being already a member of another club, when he is rated at 16 and finds at the second club his is not accepted as a 16.

Rev.W.E. Gladstone

Lift Turn

Forget it in May -

Well, your're scarcely in play.

Forget it in June;

You'll remember it soon.

Forget in July;

Now you really must try.

Forget it in August;

Your brain is like sawdust.

Forget in September;

You'll *never* remember.

Forget in October;

You can't be quite sober!

M.B.R.L.J.

The Three-Ball Triple

Have you ever tried to do a triple peel with only three balls on the court? No, it is not dreadful at all. This is not a perilous adventure into the Higher Croquet, or, at any rate, not a very perilous one; it is within the capacity of anyone who can play a three-ball break steadily.

Let us assume that a player is for the first hoop with red and for four back with yellow and that his opponent has pegged out his black ball but not his blue. The opponent can now sit down to ruminate blissfully on a situation in which seventeen points separate his adversary from victory, whereas he himself needs only one. Not yet does he know of the drama which with increasing intensity will shortly unfold itself before his horrified and incredulous eyes.

Let us see what follows. Red hits in and makes the first hoop off yellow, then, after sending yellow to the third hoop, joins blue, off which he makes the second hoop. red then rushes blue to the third hoop, leaving it a yard to the side of that hoop which he then makes off yellow. He then back-peels yellow through four-back and in the same shot leaves himself a rush on blue for the fourth hoop. Hoops four and five are made off blue and, after the fifth is run, blue is rushed to a point on the eastern boundary near the third corner. Red takes croquet off blue and sends it as pioneer ball for one-back to a convenient spot beyond the sixth hoop. Yellow is rushed to the sixth hoop which red runs, afterwards back-peeling yellow, getting yellow well through. Red makes one-back off blue, afterwards sending it as pioneer ball for three-back. Red rushes yellow to two-back, making the hoop off it and afterwards sending it to four-back. All that remains now is ordinary three-ball break play with the rover peel added. Three back is made off blue, which is then sent to the penultimate. Four-back is made off yellow, which is then sent on to the peeling position at the rover hoop. Red makes the penultimate off blue, afterwards sending it a yard or so beyond the rover hoop. red follows yellow through the rover and hits blue, which, if necessary, may be used to cannon yellow a little to one side of the rover hoop if that hoop stymies it from the peg. Then red rushes yellow to the peg and the thing is done.

In conclusion I would suggest that this break well repays

practice, also that this is a very pretty manoeuvre and delightful to play. The absence of the fourth ball throws into stronger relief the essentials of break play, isolating the issues and clearing the ground. It demands concentration, careful ball control and thinking ahead. Moreover the whole seventeen points can be scored in ten minutes.

Inter-Federation Match

The well-established annual match between the West Midlands and the North took place on Saturday, 10th May at Southport in ideal weather conditions.

The match consisted of four level singles, advanced play, four handicap singles and four doubles. Many of the games were closely fought, and the result was a win for West Midlands by 7 games to 5.

Request for aid to beginners

from R.C. Case

Dear Sir

The Croquet Section of the Sidmouth Club welcomes you as the new Editor of the Gazette and wishes you every success.

May we, as a small but enthusiastic Club of about 60 Members, offer a few suggestions?

Our standards are not as high as we could wish. Would you consider printing a "Beginner's Corner" to deal with questions that constantly arise among the inexperienced, and those who loyally support the game, but will never rise to the complexities of the triple peel, let alone the sextuple peel?

The Chairman's Report (Croquet Gazette, No. 155, Spring, 1980) contains the following passage, "... the obligation to strengthen the foundations of the game ..." May we suggest a means to this end?

Some excellent books by M. Reckitt, and others are out of print, and only one (Miller and Thorp) still survives. Even this, it seems, will soon be out of print.

We feel that there is a demand for a good text book, well illustrated. The illustrations in Miller and Thorp are a convenient size (pg. 68, for example). Most of those in "Croquet" (Nat. West. Bank) are too small and indistinct. Some in "Croquet" - Solomon (pg.68) are needlessly large. Croquet Handbook (Ross) is good on Cannons.

Could not the Association be persuaded to have printed an updated edition of, say, Reckitt? 2,000 of his books were sold, with (presumably) a smaller Membership than today. Or could the Association not go a step further and produce, or sponsor, their own text book?

There is a wealth of books on tennis and golf. The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (a smaller organisation, presumably, than the Croquet Association) sponsors a number of text books on the art of Ringing.

We feel that the publication of an official text book would go far towards meeting "... the obligation to strengthen the foundation of the game ..."

Would you care to test the views of Members about these matters through the Gazette or, perhaps, submit the suggestion to the Croquet Association itself?

Hon. Secretary
Sidmouth Croquet Section

Yours faithfully
R.C. Case