

**Handicap Alterations****Compton weekend 7 – 10 May**

R.E. Wallis from 3 to 2½

**Southwick 18 – 23 May**J.H. Bowman 3 to 2½  
Mrs. L. Wharrad 12 (D11) to 11 (D9)**Colchester weekend 23 – 25 May**M. Avery 2½ to 2  
D.L. Gaunt 10 to 9  
J. Haigh 1 to ½  
G.F. Healey 5 to 4 (Non-Associate)  
J.O. Walters 9 to 8  
R.A. Welch 7½ to 6½  
Miss E.I. Wood 10 to 12**Compton (Club) 25 May**

C.E. Knight 4½ to 4

**Carrickmines (Club) May**

F.J. Rogerson 5 (New Associate)

**Hurlingham (Club) 27 May**

D. Cross 7 to 6

**Cheltenham weekend 23 – 25 May**Mrs. S. Blenkin 13 to 12  
P. Cordingley 3½ to 3  
G.W.R. Goodwin 9  
T.W. Griffith 2½ to 2  
G.W. Sisum 4 to 3½  
R.J. Smith 6½ to 5½  
Miss J. Wraith 9 to 11**Cheltenham (Club) 26 May**Mrs. G.M. Bawden 15 (D13)  
M.T. Paddon 8 to 7 to 5  
Miss I.M. Roe 4½ to 5½**Southport weekend 24 – 26 May**

A.G. Gordon 9 to 7

**Colchester (Club) 29 May**

R.B. Berry 5 (New-Associate)

**Compton 25 – 30 May**J.N.D. Bettley 8 to 7  
G. Borrett 1 to 1½  
R.P. Chappell 4½ to 4  
Miss B.E. Dennant 9 to 8  
E.C. Thyrwhitt-Drake ½ to 1  
Dr. R. Wood 1 to ½**Parkstone 1 – 6 June**J.P. Dawson 5½ to 5  
Dr. J.A. McMordie 5½ to 4½  
Mrs. C.W. Marshall 9 to 8  
Mrs. H.R. Mortimer 15 (D13)  
(Non-Associate)J.F. Pollard \*8 to 6  
Miss A.R. Robertson 10 (D8) to 9 (D8)  
T.I. Wood 1 to ½**Inter-Counties 2 – 4 June**

J.W. Solomon -2½ to -1

Mrs. B.L. Sundius-Smith 2 to 3½

**Nottingham Weekend 29 – 31 May**K. Aiton from 8 to 6 (Non-Associate)  
E.J. Davis 5 to 4½**Challenge & Gilbey (Budleigh) 8 – 13 June**Mrs. P.A. Dwerryhouse 9 to 8  
M.M. Hawthorn 11 to 10  
F.J.R. Landor 3 to 2½  
R.H. Lee 4 to 3½  
R.A. Pierce 6 to 5  
Mrs. B.G. Perry \*16 (D14) to 16 (D14)**Southwick weekend 12 – 14 June**D.L. Gaunt 9 to 7  
Mrs. E.H.P. Mallinson 4½ to 6½**Men's & Women's Championships (Cheltenham) 14 – 20 June**Miss E.H. Arkell from 3½ up to 4  
D.R. Foulser -1 to -1½  
R.A. Godby 0 up to ½  
S.G. Jones 2 to 1½  
J.A. McCullough 0 to -½  
R.J. Murfitt -1½ to -2  
D.K. Openshaw -2 to -2½  
G.J. Roberts -½ to -1  
Mrs. B.C. Sykes 3 to 2½  
Mrs. R.F. Wheeler 2 up to 2½**Veterans Championships (Compton) 22 – 27 June**L.D. Adams 1½ to 1  
H.G. Green 1 to ½**Ryde 15 – 20 June**Mrs. C. Abderhalden 9 to 8  
D.L. Card 12 (D10) to 10  
L.B. Barnes 7 to 6½  
Mrs. F. Newman 6 to 5  
A. Rowlands 9 to 8  
Mrs. W.A. Scarr 6 to 5½  
C.G. Pountney 2 up to 4**Handicap Co-Ordination Committee June****NEW ASSOCIATES**Miss S.B. McCord 16 (D14)  
W.L. Pulley 10  
M.A. Rothera 8**Edgbaston (Club Recommendation) 21 June**

K.E. Jones 3 to 2½

**NEW REFEREE**

R.M. Hobbs

**Apps and Steel Bowl Awards 1981**

In order to assist the Handicap Co-Ordination Committee in selecting the most improved players for this year (leading to the award of the Apps Bowl and the Steel Bowl), clubs are asked to consider whether they have any Associates worthy of consideration for either of these awards. If they have any players who have made outstanding improvement for this year, will they please submit detailed particulars not later than 11th October to the C.A. office, so that the Committee can include such players in their deliberations. Account is taken both of club play and play in tournaments, but only Members of the C.A. are eligible.

# THE CROQUET GAZETTE

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**The Secretary & Editor.**

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All Contributions other than tournament results should be sent to the Editor. They are not acknowledged but are most welcome.

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.

**THE HISTORY OF CROQUET**

There can be few minority sports which have so extensive a bibliography as croquet. In 1972 and 1973 Dr. Bray and other researchers unearthed nearly a hundred books on the game, with a tacit admission that there must have been many more of which they were in ignorance. Most of the works deal with the playing of the game, tactics and so forth, but although history and development play a part in many of the books a major gap has existed in croquet literature with the lack of a comprehensive work covering the game from its early beginnings through to the present time. This has now been abundantly rectified in *The History of Croquet* by D.M.C. Prichard.

For this to have come to fruition tribute is paid by the author to Maurice Reckitt who had over the years patiently compiled a summary of the Croquet Gazettes from the time of their first publication in the early part of the century. Had he been younger Maurice would have undoubtedly attempted the wider canvas of a definitive history of the game, but in default of this he persuaded Colonel Prichard that the undertaking was one that could be confidently entrusted to his hands. Maurice himself through the use of part of his legacy to the Croquet Association has played no small part in guaranteeing the book's publication, and he would have been first to congratulate the author on the quality of his work. The book is a happy blend of good writing and scholarship and the flowing style contributes much to the reader's enjoyment.

Much of the development of croquet in the years up to the turn of the century has been shrouded in darkness, with only piecemeal details available. In order to remedy this, the author with the co-operation of his wife spent many days in the British Newspaper Library at Colindale browsing through volumes of *The Field* and other periodicals covering the second half of the 19th century. Having myself laboured in this vineyard just for a few hours some years ago I can but admire their fortitude and patience, the reading of the very small print of those days being itself a considerable strain.

The word croquet frequently prompts players and others to speculate on its derivation. Colonel Prichard produces a variety of historical references including that from an anonymous author who, having himself given French names to a number

of pastimes, supposed that the originator of croquet had acted likewise. Jacques probably encouraged the idea of a French connection by putting a circumflex accent over the 'e', but fortunately soon discontinued the practice. As Colonel Prichard says, the reader can take his choice, it is not a burning question.

A large section of the early part of the book is rightly devoted to that extraordinary character Walter Jones Whitmore who 'transformed the game from the silliest of open air games to the most intellectual one'. A difficult and eccentric man who revelled in controversy, he must nevertheless be remembered with gratitude as the father of modern croquet. Some readers may be tempted to skip the early chapters and turn to the latter half of the book, their interest being more in the modern game and in players whom they have met or competed against. Be that as it may, they will find much of absorbing interest in the first part of the book.

There is a delightful account of what must have been the most spectacular croquet tournament ever staged. It was in 1871 at Aldershot, run on military lines, embracing in addition to croquet a race meeting, a cricket match between Aldershot and the M.C.C., and a grand review with 17,000 troops paraded. Two theatrical performances and a grand ball provided sumptuous evening entertainment. Bands played all day long during the croquet and 'to crown it all, the General of Division, Sir James Hope Grant GCB was walking about in uniform among our hoops all through the match', to quote Lillie's description of the final in which he beat Whitmore. There are particularly vivid descriptions of the Decline and Fall of Croquet in the early 1880's and the Revival in 1897, which must have entailed many hours of patient research. Australian and New Zealand readers in particular will be attracted to the chapters on the history of the MacRobertson Shield.

A happy feature is the way in which the individual characteristics of the game's personalities are brought out, the pages being liberally spiced with anecdotes for the reader to relish. These are sometimes relegated to the copious Notes at the end of the book; indeed the Notes are so interesting that one is tempted to read a whole sequence without troubling to refer back to the main body of the book. As an example, 'Tests carried out with a pedometer in 1925 indicated that in an evenly contested game each player walked slightly more than one mile in every hour. Thus a player engaged in play all day long (say eight hours) might well walk nearly ten miles. Combined with the mental strain involved, this can hardly have been what Cyril Corbally's doctor had in mind when he recommended 'gentle exercise'.

The book is lavishly illustrated with photographs spanning a century or more, while the Appendices contain a wealth of information on the winners of the main Croquet Association Events, the development of the Laws and Equipment, and the Bibliography of the game. It is published by Cassell at £8.95, but is available to Associates through the C.A. Office at a special price of £6, (plus £1 if ordered by post), a bargain they would be unwise to miss.

S.S.T.

**Report on the final of the Secretary's Shield Deferred from 1980.**

In May 1980, Chester, winners of the Northern Federation League in 1979, won the semi-final by beating Stourbridge,



winners of the West Midlands Federation League, by 5 – 0 and went into the final against Wallingford, winners of the London League. Unfortunately it proved impossible to arrange to play the final in 1980 and it had to be deferred to 17th May, 1981 when the match was played on neutral ground at Edgbaston. The match was started at 10.30 and was completed soon after 4.00 with most of the play in intermittent drizzle. Chester received bisques in all the games and this enabled them to win the match by 4 – 1 so Chester is the winner of the Secretary's Shield for 1980. George Collin and Hasting Wang both played remarkably well. George, partnered by Bert Mason in the first doubles took an early bisque when a favourable leave was presented and went round to 4 back; he laid up and left a rush for partner which was not used to advantage. However in later play Bert Mason made a break of 8 but failed at rover. It was left for George to peel him and peg out. Another interesting doubles was between the Collin brothers, for Chester, and Croker and Morrison, for Wallingford. Both Chester's clips were on the peg, Morrison's was on 2 back and David Croker had the innings. He went round to the peg and there was all the makings of an exciting finish when, inexplicably, he failed to make a simple roquet. Andrew Collin went in and made a good leave for George who finished the game.

#### Results

**A. Collin & H. Wang** (15½) bt **D. & Mrs. A. Croker** (7½) +15.  
**G. Collin & A.C. Mason** (17½) bt **N. Morrison & B. Barnes** (12) +22.  
**A. & G. Collin** (11) bt **D. Croker & N. Morrison** (5) +7.  
**B. Barnes** (5) –17 bt **A.C. Mason** (10). **H. Wang** (12) bt **Mrs. A. Croker** (7½) +20.

#### Result of United States v. Representatives from England

April 3 – 5 1981

Venue: Palm Beach Polo & Country Club, Wellington, Florida.

Teams:	U.S.A.	England
	J.R. Osborn	G.N. Aspinall
	J.A. Peck	Prof. B.G. Neal
	E.A. Prentis Sr.	Dr. W.P. Ormerod
	E.A. Prentis Jr.	J.W. Solomon

Matches were a mixture of singles and doubles. Under English rules England won 8 – 0. Under American rules England won 7 – 1. (J.R. Osborn was the only victor).

#### Ireland v England "B"

In January Irish Distillers Ltd, to encourage croquet in Ireland, offered to sponsor for three years an international match with England and a Referees course at Carrickmines to improve the standard of refereeing, there being, at present, no Irish players on the CA official list. The date for the course has yet to be finalised but the match arranged for 16th/17th May has duly taken place as described below. It was agreed that the members of the English team should match in handicap those of the Irish players.

Irish Distillers had to withdraw their sponsorship offer, but the Bank of Ireland generously stepped into the breach at least for this year. It had been hoped to obtain wide publicity for the match to attract new players to the game, but this had to be abandoned for security reasons in view of the recent troubles. Apart from rather indifferent weather this was the only fly in the ointment on an otherwise perfect trip.

Carrickmines has a lovely setting with the backcloth of the Dublin Mountains on the extreme outskirts of Dublin to the southwest. The buildings are extensive with a fine bar which never seems to close. Beyond the pavilion on a lower level are three good croquet lawns with a fourth shared with the tennis section.

Five of the English team flew from Heathrow to Dublin on

Friday morning, on an earlier flight than intended in order to beat yet another strike which was due to start at 2 p.m. The five were Robin Godby, Richard Rothwell, Mike Pearson, Paul MacDonald and Peter Rothwell, Richard's younger brother who gave up playing in 1955 with a handicap of –2 and who has only in the past month started playing again, but is rapidly finding his old form. The sixth member of the team Chris Hudson flew over from Manchester.

On arrival we sampled the first of the Irish hospitality, which proved to be non-stop, with a slap up lunch although it was 3.30 p.m. After some practice, tea and drinks we adjourned to the homes of our various hosts but not for an early bed.

Play on Saturday, with the weather none too kind, started at 9.30 a.m. with the three bottom singles, each level advanced play best of three games with a time limit of seven hours. England started well. After a break for a generous lunch Mike Pearson beat Reg Leonard in straight games +22 +11 as did Peter Rothwell against Myles McWeeney +4 +17 and Paul MacDonald against Mrs. Leonard +11 +15 to give England a 3 – 0 lead. Next on court were the three top singles. Only the first game of each match was played on the Saturday to avoid the possibility of the outcome of the match being decided on the first day. Terence Read soon beat Robin Godby +25; Richard Rothwell beat Carl von Schneider after a titanic struggle in which Carl pegged out his rover ball accidentally by 3, and Chris Hudson beat Frances Joly by 9.

This was by no means the end of the day's activities. The club staged a first class dinner in the clubhouse at which 60 players and friends sat down which gave the English Captain Richard Rothwell the opportunity to thank all concerned for their welcome and lavish hospitality. The party eventually broke up at about 2.30 a.m. with a sing song at the bar.

It was the apparent intention of our hosts to get us into such a state to make victory for us on the morrow impossible, but the play just failed. On Sunday morning although Terence soon completed his annihilation of Robin by 26, to give Ireland its first win, Richard beat Carl in another close game, this time by only 2. Frances won the second game against Chris by 3(OT) but he won the third by 18 to give England a winning lead of 5 – 1 with the three doubles to come.

Ireland were more successful in the doubles which were played as single games in view of the time factor. They won the top two, Terence and Frances beat Robin and Mike +6(OT), Carl and Myles beat the Rothwell brothers +8 but Chris and Paul beat the Leonards by 13 to give England an overall win 6 – 3. Scores can be deceptive and the whole match was evenly poised throughout and played in the best of spirit.

Then followed the presentation of the perpetual trophy to the English Captain Richard Rothwell. It is a magnificent silver cigar box presented by Myles McWeeney in memory of his mother Vera who died recently. She was an ardent supporter of croquet at Carrickmines for many years, a great sports-woman being an international at Badminton, Squash, Tennis and Hockey. Robin Godby as Chairman of the Council then gave, if somewhat belatedly, Frances Joly the medal she had won by becoming Women's Champion at Cheltenham in 1977, thought to be the first Irish woman to win this championship.

After the presentation we adjourned to the lovely home of Professor and Mrs. Stein for another party then to our host's homes for further hospitality ending again at about 2.30 a.m. Maybe it was as well that the match was not a three day one.

And so back home on Monday morning. Had we known we might have brought with us over our allocation of duty free goods as we passed through an empty Customs building, the officials presumably working to rule having an extended lunch break. We had left behind fond and lasting memories of true Irish hospitality and we all hope that we may be included in next year's team to come over to Carrickmines to defend the Vera McWeeney trophy. We were told that members of the

club would give hospitality to any player coming over from England to play in their CA Calendar tournaments. After this weekend experience we feel sure that more than in the past will put Carrickmines on their list of tournaments in the future. Thank you Carrickmines.

Richard Rothwell.

#### 1st Pimms International 1981 at Southport – 30th May

##### SCOTLAND v WALES

The first Pimms International of 1981 was played at the Southport and Birkdale Club on Saturday 30th May. It will be recalled that all three of last year's matches were played in appalling weather conditions, far from that conducive to drinking Pimms Cup which one associates with summer. Southport gave us a lovely sunny morning with intermittent sunshine for the rest of the day with no hint of rain. Perhaps this was as well because undercover accommodation at the club is limited.

About 60 spectators witnessed and enjoyed an interesting if not spectacular day's croquet. The club is owned and maintained by the Southport Corporation. There are five lawns at the southern end of Victoria Park where the famous Southport Flower Show is held annually. It has an adequate pavilion still lit by gas, which must make it almost unique in the country. Although the public have access by a footpath through it, the club is virtually fenced in.

The whole of the Victoria Park area is land reclaimed from the sea some 100 years ago and the embankment running along the eastern side of what is now Rotten Row was the old sea wall, now some quarter of a mile from the sea.

The Croquet Association is very conscious of the stirring work done by the comparatively newly formed Northern Federation in organising and promoting Croquet in the North. It seemed right that one of this year's Pimms Internationals should be staged within its territory. Bowdon was ruled out as it had relaid all its lawns last year and their quality this summer was an unknown quantity when the venues had to be decided. Southport was the other alternative and what a good choice it turned out to be. The Corporation and the Club Committee are to be congratulated for making all the arrangements so satisfactorily, in particular Geoffrey Binks who has recently taken over as Club Secretary from Brian Sandiford.

The play was not spectacular but always interesting. Described in order in which they finished in the top match Martin Murray (Scotland) had the measure of Colin Prichard (Wales) in the first game and soon had a clip on 4-back. Prichard made a long and difficult second hoop but failed to make further progress and Murray ran out the winner by 18. In the second game again he soon had a clip on 4-back. After the lift shot had been narrowly missed he got his backward ball to the peg getting the first of an attempted triple. After Prichard had several chances in which he got to 4-back and the 4th, Murray at last got in to win by 14 to win the match and put Scotland 1-0 up.

In the second match Andrew Hope (Scotland) always stayed on top of a rather out-of-form David Croker. By lunchtime he had won the first game by 13 and then the second by 17 to give Scotland a 2-0 lead.

The next match to finish was that of the fourth pair Robin Godby, Wales' captain against Ian Wright. Godby soon got to 4-back but Wright had advanced both his balls to rover by lunchtime, and soon after the resumption won by 17. In the second game Godby struck good form and quickly got to 4-back. Wright narrowly missed the lift shot and Godby got the 4-back peel but with a bad rush to the 4th failed to make further progress. He was soon at penultimate and peg before Wright had another chance, but he failed to score and Godby

won by 26 to level. In the deciding game both players had chances and at one time all four clips were for the third hoop, but Godby soon got the upper hand again and by 6.15 p.m. had won by 19 to reduce Scotland's lead to one.

The last match to finish was the third match Vic Rees v Stephen Wright, Scotland's captain. This proved to be a long and protracted affair and the two games did not finish until nearly 7 p.m. The first game took nearly 4½ hours playing time due in no small part to the slow and defensive play of Rees who eventually won by 6. The second game was another long one. Eventually Rees got to rover and peg and Wright, with his forward ball on the peg, hit in with his backward ball and played well to advance from the 3rd hoop to 4-back and seemed all set to go out to level the match. With a ball well placed at rover and penultimate he had a comparatively short approach to 4-back and he stuck in it, unfortunately on Rees' backward ball, and that was that, and Rees had won in straight games giving Wales a draw 2-2. When the second game ended it was almost 7 o'clock, and the manager was seriously considering marshalling cars to cast their headlights on the lawn from an adjoining field had the match gone to a third game as looked likely a few minutes earlier. Thus ended on an exciting note an interesting match. Thanks to the Southport Club and on to Cheltenham next week.

R.F.R.

#### WEEKEND TOURNAMENTS

##### Roehampton 1 April 23 – 26

##### Swiss Handicap Singles

(28 entries, 8 rounds).

After 8 rounds:—

7 wins: D. J. Croker, Mrs. F.H. Newman. 6 wins: I.P. Macdonald. 5 wins: P. Boddington, Mrs. W. Browne, P.E. Callan, C.H.J. Cousins, J.R.N. Lisle, Mrs. B.G. Neal. 4 wins: Miss J. Assheton, Mrs. D.J. Croker, M.J. Stevens. 2 wins: Dr. H.A. Pim, Mrs. H.A. Pim, C.B. Sanford, Mrs. J. Healy. 1 win: Mrs. S.N. Mulliner. 0 wins: Mrs. J. Wraith.

Notes: G.B. Martin sadly retired after 4 rounds and Miss Macleod took his place.

Only the top groups played 8 rounds.

After 7 rounds:—

4 wins: W. Denison, Mrs. I.P. Macdonald, Mrs. S.S. Townsend. 3 wins: Mrs. E.E. Bressey, Mrs. E. Glover, J. Haigh, G.B. Martin & Miss J. Macleod, K.F.W. Townsend, S.S. Townsend.

##### Coles Cheltenham Open Championship 2 – 4 May

Winner: G.N. Aspinall bt (1) Dr. B.G. Weitz +25, J. McCullough +8, (QF), A.B. Hope +17, (TP) +9, (SF) Dr. E. Solomon +24, +24, (F) S.A. Buck +12, +17.

Runner-up: S.A. Buck bt (1) J.A. Wheeler +21, (2) I.D. Bond +26, (QF) K.F. Wylie –16, +26, +20, (TP) (SF) E. Bell +20, +22.

Third: K.F. Wylie bt (1) D.R. Foulser +24, (2) D.J. Croker +3, Swiz: P.W. Hands +11, A.B. Hope +3, E. Bell +18, J. McCullough +3.

5 wins: I.D. Bond bt (1) H.O. Hicks +24. Swiz: D.J. Croker +15, Prof. B.G. Neal +25, G.E.P. Jackson +24, A.B. Hope +7.

5 wins: J. McCullough bt (1) Dr. G.J. Roberts +1. Swiz: L.V. Latham +19, S.N. Mulliner +16, I.D. Bond +2, J.A. Wheeler +14.

5 wins: D.K. Openshaw bt Swiz: R.A. Godby +19, Dr. M. Murray +26, Dr. G.J. Roberts +7, Prof. B.G. Neal +25, Capt. W. de B. Prichard +16.

5 wins: J.A. Wheeler bt Swiz: H.O. Hicks +15, D.R. Foulser +7, D.K. Openshaw +4, G.E.P. Jackson +1, E. Bell +26.

4 wins: E. Bell bt (1) Dr. M. Murray +5, (2) Dr. G.K. Taylor +16, (QF) P.W. Hands +14, +15, Swiz: Dr. E.W. Solomon +6.



4 wins: D.J. Croker bt (1) Mrs. B.M. Meachem +24. Swiz: Dr. G.K. Taylor +23, L.V. Latham +14, Mrs. B.M. Meachem +15.  
 4 wins: P.W. Hands bt (1) D.K. Openshaw +4 (2) Prof. B.G. Neal +9, Swiz: Dr. I.G. Vincent +17, Mrs. B.M. Meachem +13.  
 4 wins: A.B. Hope bt (1) Dr. I.G. Vincent +12, (2) J.G.C. Phillips +19. Swiz: Capt. W. de B. Prichard +22, Dr. E. Solomon +20.  
 4 wins: G.E.P. Jackson bt Swiz: B.C. Sykes +25, G.W. Noble +10, Dr. G.J. Roberts +13, D.J. Croker +19.  
 4 wins: S.N. Mulliner bt (1) G.W. Noble +19, Swiz: C.H.J. Cousins +19, Dr. G.J. Roberts +21, D.R. Foulser +14.  
 4 wins: R.J. Murfitt bt Swiz: B.C. Sykes +13, J. Rose +13, L.V. Latham +3, Dr. G.K. Taylor +14.  
 4 wins: Prof. B.G. Neal bt (1) R.A. Godby +26, Swiz: Dr. G.K. Taylor +17, S.N. Mulliner +16, Dr. E. Solomon +10.  
 4 wins: Capt. W. de B. Prichard bt (1) G.E.P. Jackson +16, (2) C.H.J. Cousins +4, Swiz: P.W. Hands +8, D.R. Foulser +26, (TP).  
 3 wins: D.R. Foulser bt Swiz: Mrs. B.M. Meachem +26, Dr. M. Murray +3, Dr. I.G. Vincent +19.  
 3 wins: Mrs. B.M. Meachem bt Swiz: H.O. Hicks +3, L.S. Butler +7, R.J. Murfitt +13.  
 3 Wins: Dr. M. Murray bt Swiz: L.S. Butler +7, G.W. Noble +5, J. Rose +25.  
 3 wins: G.W. Noble bt Swiz: R.J. Murfitt +2, B.C. Sykes +8, L.S. Butler +8.  
 3 wins: Dr. E.W. Solomon bt (1) R.J. Murfitt +3, (2) S.N. Mulliner +5, (QF) Capt. W. de B. Prichard +19, +15.  
 3 wins: Dr. G.K. Taylor bt (1) L.S. Butler +18. Swiz: C.H.J. Cousins +25, Dr. M. Murray +11.  
 3 wins: Dr. I.G. Vincent bt Swiz: J. Rose +10, G.W. Noble +5, Dr. B.G. Weitz +13.  
 3 wins: Dr. B.G. Weitz bt Swiz: B.C. Sykes +20, R.A. Godby +4, L.S. Butler +21.  
 2 wins: L.S. Butler bt Swiz: R.A. Godby +1, J. Rose +3.  
 2 wins: R.A. Godby bt Swiz: H.O. Hicks +9, C.H.J. Cousins +17 (from 6 rounds).  
 2 wins: L.V. Latham bt Swiz: C.H.J. Cousins +7, Dr. G.J. Roberts +11 (from 5 rounds).  
 2 wins: Dr. G.J. Roberts bt Swiz: Dr. B.G. Weitz +21, Dr. I.G. Vincent +9.  
 2 wins: J. Rose bt Swiz: Dr. B.G. Weitz +7, H.O. Hicks +26.  
 1 win: C.H.J. Cousins bt (1) B.C. Sykes +4.  
 1 win: J.G.C. Phillips bt (1) J. Rose +5 (from 2 rounds).  
 1 win: B.C. Sykes bt Swiz: H.O. Hicks +20 (from 6 rounds).  
 0 wins: H.O. Hicks (from 6 rounds).

#### COLCHESTER 1 23 – 25 May Swiss Handicap: Singles Double-Banked

In spite of rain, varying from drizzle to deluge, wind, sometimes fresh and sometimes gale, low temperatures, either cool or sub-arctic and (Heavens be praised) glimpses of the sun, no time was lost during the Tournament – a tribute to Edward Duffield's care and experience and to the excellent natural drainage.

George Digby managed with his customary efficiency and the presentations were made at tea-time on Monday.

John Haigh was the outright winner, repeating his success of 1978, and deservedly shed half a bisque.

There were five runners-up, with four wins each and no play-off was attempted. The Manager's opinion is that to use net points as a criterion is unfair unless prior notice is given – a player's strategy may well vary in different circumstances. To introduce some arbitrary method (such as hitting the peg) may be as popular as deciding a Football final on penalty goals. In any case, it was raining.

It is encouraging to note that of the five runners-up two were teenagers and the other three young by any reasonable standards. Also one joined the Colchester Club as a result of the

Recruitment Drive organised last year and whose handicap is now reduced to four.

5 wins: J. Haigh (1) bt J.G.C. Phillips (–½) +15 bt Mrs. H. Abderhalden (9) +16 bt D.L. Gaunt (10) +3 bt M.J. Coward (2) +5 O.T. bt R.A. Welch (7½) +9.

4 wins: M.N. Avery (2½) bt G.F. Hallett (3) +1 bt L.B. Barnes (7) +11 bt Mrs. G.S. Digby (4) +16 bt Gaunt +4. Lost to A.J. Girling (2) –5. M.J. Coward (2) bt S. Claydon (10) bt J.C. Eden (14) +9 bt Mrs. A. Neville Rolfe (2½) +25 bt A.J. Girling (2) +21. Lost to Haigh –5 O.T. G.P. Healey (5) bt C. Abderhalden (5½) +21 bt Hallett +25 bt R.D. Prichard (1½) +2 bt Barnes +16. Lost to Girling –1. J.O. Walters (9) bt Claydon +14 bt R.M. Hobbs (2½) bt S.G. Jones (2) +12 bt Mrs. Digby +24. Lost to Eden –5. R.A. Welch (7½) bt Mrs. J.A. Hetherington (9) +13 O.T. bt R.L. Jones (4½) +10 bt Mrs. Digby +12 bt Girling +9. Lost to Haigh –9.

#### Nottingham 1 29 – 31 May

##### Handicap Singles

BLOCK A: A.J. Bucknall (7) 5 wins (+39); G.E.P. Jackson (–½) 5 wins (+15); J.C. Straw (6) 4 wins; K.F. Townsend (10) 3 wins (+12); C. Chamberlain (8) 3 wins (+11); Mrs. R.F. Wheeler (2) 1 win; Mrs. J. Haworth (14) 0 win.

BLOCK B: K. Aiton (8) 6 wins; E.J. Davis (5) 5 wins; P.J. Death (2) 4 wins; Dr. R.C. Jones (4½) 2 wins (–24); Dr. M.J. Haslam (5½) 2 wins (–52); J.F.S. Thomas (11) 2 wins (–77); Mrs. K.F. Townsend (10) 0 wins.

BLOCK C: G. Henshaw (3) 5 wins; Mrs. D. De Q. Lenfestey (8) 4 wins; D. Daintree (11) 3 wins (0); Mrs. A.J. Bucknall (10) 3 wins (–5); G.N. Leech (3) 3 wins (–31); Mrs. M. Tomkinson (10) 2 wins (–5); Mrs. N. Tyldesley (7) 1 win.

BLOCK D: M. Tomkinson (2½) 6 wins; A.G. Gordon (7) 4 wins; Mrs. P. Hague (6½) 3 wins (+14); A.J. Girling (2) 3 wins (–23); D. de Q. Lenfestey (6) 2 wins (+1); Miss H. Watson Walker (16) 2 wins (–38); Mrs. C. Chamberlain (10) 1 win (–74).

Some uninvited comments on

#### CHELtenham CROQUET CLUB'S MEMBERS' TOURNAMENT 7 June by "High Bisquer"

These note are penned by one quite unqualified to report on a croquet tournament proper, but the Cheltenham Members' Tournament was essentially a fun event, bringing together members of all capacities. It is to be hoped that the low bisquers who so gallantly took part, found their share of enjoyment.

It was a doubles tournament, with partners taking alternate shots. There were morning, afternoon, and evening games, each limited to 2 hours, starting and finishing strictly on the bell. Partners and opponents were changed for each match.

Seven of the club's ten lawns were occupied throughout the day, and the event was an enjoyable success. However, a few of the games could have been much more enjoyable, given a little clear thinking on the main object of the tournament, and due consideration for its format.

With prizes going to players who, with the help (or otherwise) of their respective partners, had made the most hoops, the vital element, so sadly lacking in one or two games, was a quickened tempo.

The alternate shot game offers great opportunities for speeding up the game without sacrifice of judgment or execution. The non-hitting player, for instance, knows where his partner is intending to send the playing ball, and can get into position

ready to play it when it arrives. Given a measure of rapport between partners, the next shot can be played without further ado.

The least enjoyable games were those in which consultation took place much too often, with a depressing effect on the tempo of the game, and unnecessarily boring waiting times for the out players.

This state of affairs is most likely to happen when two middle bisquers are paired. When one is by nature an attacking player and the other a defensive player, the incompatibility should be recognised and sportingly faced with a willingness to let the other go his own way about things without recrimination.

At Cheltenham we are fortunate to have several of the gentler giants of croquet, who make wonderful doubles partners. Tolerant of the high bisquer, they help him along the way with a minimum of advice, and appreciate that even this poor performer may sometimes achieve wonders if left to himself.

#### SOUTHWICK WEEKEND 12 – 14 JUNE

BLOCK A: D.C. Caporn (3½) 4 wins (+9), N. Cox (4) 4 wins (+29), M. Phelps (½) 3 wins (+15), R.A. Gosden (7 ½) 2 wins (–22), Mrs. J. Barnes (11) 1 win (–30), Miss P. Shine (7) 1 win (–31).

BLOCK B: A.C. Coleman (1) 5 wins (+62), E.E. Rees (1½) 4 wins (+41), T. Vale (9) 3 wins (+33), C. Chandler (7) 2 wins (–17), Mrs. D.A. Tumner (6) 1 win (–58), Mrs. N. Adlam (11) 0 wins (–60).

BLOCK C: H.J. Betts (3) 4 wins (+34), L. Wharrad (3) 4 wins (+25), Mrs. R.A. Gosden (9) 2 wins, Mrs. P. Jagger (11) 2 wins (–3), P.A. Tumner (7) 2 wins (–27), G. Coates (5) 1 win (–29).

BLOCK D: S. Battison (2) 5 wins (+68), D. G. Gaunt (9) 4 wins (+72), Mrs. E. Cox (4) 3 wins (–13), L.B. Barnes (7) 2 wins (+1), Mrs. J. Chandler (11) 1 win (–50), Mrs. E. Lewis (8) 0 wins (–78).

BLOCK E: W.E. Moore (1) 5 wins (+72) A. Betts (5½) 3 wins (+29), R.M. Hobbs (2½) 3 wins (+12), A. Shepherd (5) 3 wins (+4), Mrs. M. Rankin (11) 1 win (–71), Mrs. M. Wharrad (11) 0 wins (–34).

Play-off: W. Moore v. S. Battison

Winner: W. Moore (+6)

#### HUNSTANTON 2 6 – 8 June

American. Open 1st 2 blocks. Level Blocks C & D. (6 entries)

BLOCK A ½ to 2½ bisques: 5 wins: M.J. Coward bt J. Haigh +18, H.E. Green +14, J.R. Hilditch +26, J. Gosden +9T, Mrs. J.N. Rolfe +13. 3 wins: H.E. Green bt J. Haigh +17, J.R. Hilditch +6T, Mrs. J.N. Rolfe +8, lost to M.J. Coward –14, J. Gosden –5. 3 wins: J. Haigh bt J.R. Hilditch +6. J. Gosden +15, Mrs. J.N. Rolfe +14, lost to H.E. Green –17, M.J. Coward –18. 2 wins: J. Gosden bt H.E. Green +5, Mrs. J.N. Rolfe +10, lost to J. Haigh –15, M.J. Coward –9T, J.R. Hilditch –22. 1 win: J.R. Hilditch bt J. Gosden +22, lost to J. Haigh –6, H.E. Green –6T, M.J. Coward –26, Mrs. J.N. Rolfe –9. 1 win: Mrs. J.N. Rolfe bt J.R. Hilditch +9, lost to J. Haigh –14, H.E. Green –8, M.J. Coward –13, J. Gosden –10.

BLOCK B 2½ to 4 bisques: 5 wins: Dr. C. Snowdon bt Miss S. Hampson +13, J. Bowman +9, D. Turner +17, T. Anderson +10, Dr. M. Kolbuszewski +10. 4 wins: D. Turner bt Miss S. Hampson +8, J. Bowman +11, T. Anderson +8, Dr. M. Kolbuszewski +3, lost to Dr. C. Snowdon –17. 3 wins: T. Anderson bt Miss S. Hampson +6, J. Bowman +25, Dr. M. Kolbuszewski +7T, lost to Dr. C. Snowdon –17, D. Turner –8. 2 wins: Dr. M. Kolbuszewski bt Miss S. Hampson +6, J. Bowman +2, lost to Dr. C. Snowdon –10, D. Turner –3, T. Anderson –7T. 1 win: Miss S. Hampson: bt J. Bowman +3, lost to Dr. C. Snowdon –13, D. Turner –8, T. Anderson –6, Dr. M. Kolbuszewski –6. 0 wins: J. Bowman lost to Miss S.

Hampson –3, Dr. C. Snowdon –9, D. Turner –11, T. Anderson –25, Dr. M. Kolbuszewski –2.

BLOCK C Level 5 – 8 bisques: K.M. Cotterell bt J. Wood +10, R.A. Gosden +22, R. Forth +20, Mrs. J. Anderson +13, lost to Mrs. K. Cotterell –6. J. Wood bt R.A. Gosden +9T, R. Forth +16, Mrs. K. Cotterell +18, Mrs. J. Anderson +18, lost to K.M. Cotterell –10. 3 wins: Mrs. J. Anderson bt R.A. Gosden +6, R. Forth +18, Mrs. K. Cotterell +3T, lost to K.M. Cotterell –13, J. Wood –18. 2 wins: R.A. Gosden bt R. Forth +14, Mrs. K. Cotterell +5, lost to K.M. Cotterell –22, J. Wood –9T, Mrs. J. Anderson –6. 2 wins: Mrs. K. Cotterell bt K.M. Cotterell +6, R. Forth +10, lost to J. Wood –18, R.A. Gosden –5, Mrs. J. Anderson +3T. 0 wins: R. Forth lost to K.M. Cotterell –20, J. Wood –16, R.A. Gosden –14, Mrs. K. Cotterell –10, Mrs. J. Anderson –18.

BLOCK D Level 9 – 11 bisques: 4 wins: Mrs. R.A. Gosden bt B. Barnett +1T, M.F. Burgess +1T, Prof. K. Campbell +12, J.F.S. Thomas +11, lost to Mrs. P. Sheldon +16. 3 wins: M.F. Burgess bt Mrs. P. Sheldon +3, Prof. K. Campbell +24, J.F.S. Thomas +21, lost to Mrs. R.A. Gosden –1T, B. Barnett –17. Mrs. P. Sheldon bt Mrs. R.A. Gosden +16, B. Barnett +7, Prof. K. Campbell +6, lost to M.F. Burgess –3, J.F.S. Thomas –5T. B. Barnett bt M.F. Burgess +17, Prof. K. Campbell +14, lost to Mrs. P. Sheldon –7, Mrs. R.A. Gosden –1T, J. Thomas –7. 2 wins: J.F.S. Thomas bt Mrs. P. Sheldon +5T, B. Barnett +7, lost to Mrs. Gosden –11, M.F. Burgess –21, Prof. K. Campbell –1T. 1 win: Prof. K. Campbell bt J.F.S. Thomas +1T, lost to Mrs. P. Sheldon –6, Mrs. Gosden –12, B. Barnett –14, M. F. Burgess –24.

#### GOLF CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIPS

##### HARROW OAK 9 – 10 May

The Golf Croquet again attracted a quality field. The weather was unkind with play on the Sunday badly affected by puddles on the lawns and in the pavilion, the latter being composed mainly of the manager's tea. During Sunday lunch Graham had heard on his radio that an even deeper depression was on the way from France, and decided that the finals might not finish if each went to three games. Murfitt and Mulliner, therefore, had to start their singles not knowing if they were playing a single game, or best of three. An objection was met with a brisk "Of course it doesn't affect the strategy – you just play every game to win." And there's some of us, sacrificing games all over the place to bamboozle opponents. If only we had realised it was so simple.

After one game of the singles, the doubles final between the Northern and Southern hemispheres were started, and was quickly concluded in favour of the former. Mulliner and Murfitt then resumed their singles with Mulliner regaining some of his former shooting ability to win in two straight games. A sort of "Knickerbocker Glory" one might say.

EWS

##### BUDLEIGH SALTERTON 1 11 – 16 May

"Oh, to be in England now that April's there" wrote Robert Browning, but it is doubtful whether he would have said the same about Budleigh this May. Although we only wore wet weather clothes for a day and a half, and had a similar period of ideal weather, we ran the whole gamut from strong gales to cloud and sea-mist as well.

Nevertheless some excellent croquet was seen, exemplifying the importance of never regarding any situation as hopeless. Among those all set to peg out only to be beaten by a determined opponent (sometimes a bit lucky) were Frank Newman, Pat Newton, Marjorie Marshall, and in the Doubles the Scars, the respective winners being Margaret Newman, Ray Stevens, Claire Hawthorn and the Derryhouses.

On the other side of the coin, Don Wallace had one of his



balls pegged out and the clip of the other on the peg, with his opponent all set to catch up. However, Don hit the peg from the boundary, and that was that.

There were two especially friendly smiles from Dame Fortune. Mark Ormerod, aiming from near the 6th hoop at a ball near the 5th, hit the peg and the nine yard ricochet brought his ball to another ball, a gift that he was not slow to exploit. This set-back put paid to Reg Simpson, who was playing very well.

The other fluke was when Frank Newman, rushing his blue ball into the first corner, accidentally peeled it through 2-Back, its next hoop-in-order, and showed his delight in no uncertain way.

There were a dozen or more wins by 3 or less, so there was plenty of excitement for spectators. Not many were by +21 or more, so the great majority of wins were by satisfactory but not overwhelming margins, a tribute to the handicapping.

The two husband-and-wife partnerships of the Newmans and the Dwerryhouses did well, reaching the finals of the Doubles, and providing winners and runners-up in their respective sections of the Singles. Mark Ormerod, who won the Singles with some very steady play, started well with his mother (14) in the Doubles. However, in their second game, although he got her safely round to Rover, the fates were not kind and he never got the chance to get himself round.

#### THE PEEL MEMORIALS played at Southwick 18 – 23 May

What are the skills required for croquet? Accuracy? Touch? Control of both balls in a croquet stroke? Concentration? Concentration was difficult with the squelch, the rain trickling down the neck and the slipping grip. Determination? That was the one most necessary for the Peels '81.

The week started with a deluge and ended sodden, with rain driven in fine mists which could be seen against the trees as clouds billowing across the lawns. Remarkably, they managed to cut some of the lawns during the week, which helped. There were glorious intervals to remind us it was summer, and the longest day was only four weeks away, but the lawns never had a chance to dry out. So the play was almost entirely devoid of split shots; take-offs, stop shots and rushes were used, even by the most skilful. Tactics took a new turn. Join on a boundary behind the deepest puddle. Alec Coleman found the answer was to jump puddles in his line of fire, and seemed quite undaunted. With his accuracy and hard hitting he seemed hardly to notice the problems. He adapted to the conditions magnificently, (even the pipe was upside-down), and beat John Bowman in the final of the Men's event. They were the two dominant men. John Bowman had some convincing wins, beating Tristram Owen and Bernard Weitz +26. He and Alec meet again in the final of the X.

This was postponed till summer returns, because by Saturday only two out of the eleven lawns were at all playable. The best lawn was given to the Women's event which was won by Betty Weitz. She beat Vera Tyrwhitt Drake in the final of one half, having beaten Liz Neal in the other final the day before. Vera beat Liz in the play-off for the second place. Meanwhile the doubles on Lawn 1 was watched with interest, heightened by side-bets, in warmth and comfort indoors. Moira Wharrad, playing with increasing confidence, partnered Tiny Tyrwhitt Drake against Colin Chandler and Bill Moore. Colin's stalwart play and Bill's accuracy and tactics ensured their victory. However, Moira's determination to win was not to be damped. When she was giving away the prizes, and Lionel won the sweepstake second prize, she handed the envelope to him saying, It says You, but it means US.

#### Southwick May 18 – 23

##### Event 1. Silver Challenge Bowl for Men. (10 entries)

DRAW

First Round: J H Bowman (3) bt G F Paxon (5½) +11, Dr B G F Weitz

(½) bt E C Tyrwhitt Drake (½) +10.

Second Round: A F Coleman (1) bt D M Bull (4) +8, Bowman bt Weitz +26, T F Owen (0) bt H J Betts (3) +11, W E Moore (1) bt L Wharrad (3) +18.

Semi-Final: Coleman bt Bowman +8, Moore bt Owen +3.

Final: Coleman bt Moore +22.

PROCESS

First Round: A F Coleman (1) bt W E Moore (1) +11, L Wharrad (3) bt D M Bull (4) +11.

Second Round: Dr B G F Weitz (½) bt Coleman +18, T F Owen (0) bt G F Paxon (5½) +2, Wharrad bt E C Tyrwhitt Drake (½) +9, J H Bowman (3) bt H J Betts (3) +11.

Semi-Final: Owen bt Weitz +20, Bowman bt Wharrad +17.

Final: Bowman bt Owen +26.

Play-off: Coleman bt Bowman +11.

##### Event 2. Silver Challenge Bowl for Women (12 entries)

DRAW

First Round: Mrs E C Tyrwhitt Drake (5) bt Mrs F F W Staddon (5½) +1, Mrs M Grout (7½) bt Miss P Shine (7) +2 (t), Mrs E Lewis (8) bt Mrs R E Tucker (4½) +9, Mrs L Wharrad (12) bt Mrs C J Chandler (11) +1 (t).

Second Round: Mrs E M Speer (5½) bt Mrs A E Millns (8) opp. scr., Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake bt Mrs Grout +12, Mrs Lewis bt Mrs Wharrad +11, Mrs B G F Weitz (2½) bt Mrs B G Neal (6) +5.

Semi-Final: Tyrwhitt Drake bt Speer +11, Weitz bt E Lewis +8.

Final: Weitz bt Tyrwhitt Drake +6.

PROCESS

First Round: Mrs A Millns (8) bt Mrs L Wharrad (12) +2, Mrs B G Neal (6) bt Mrs F F W Staddon (5½) +1 (t), Mrs C J Chandler (11) bt Mrs E M Speer (5½) +17, Mrs B G F Weitz (2) bt Mrs E C Tyrwhitt Drake (5) +15.

Second Round: Mrs M Grout (7½) bt Millns +12, Neal bt Mrs E Lewis (8) +18, Miss P Shine (7) bt Chandler +9, Weitz bt Mrs R E Tucker (4½) +20.

Semi-Final: Neal bt Grout +15, Weitz bt Shine +22.

Final: Weitz bt Neal +9.

Play-off: Tyrwhitt Drake bt Neal +15.

##### Event 3. Handicap Doubles The Lady Murray Memorial Silver Challenge Cups (17 entries)

First Round: C J Chandler/W E Moore (7) bt J H Bowman/D M Bull (7) +12.

Second Round: Dr B G F Weitz/Mrs B G Neal (6½) bt Mrs E Lewis/G F Paxon (13½) +14, Chandler/Moore bt Miss P Shine/Mrs B G F Weitz (9½) +4, Mrs E M Speer/Mrs F F W Staddon (11) bt L Wharrad/Mrs E C Tyrwhitt Drake (8) +3 (t), Mrs L Wharrad/E C Tyrwhitt Drake (12½) bt A F Coleman/Mrs M Grout (15½) +15.

Semi-Final: Chandler/Moore bt Weitz/Neal +10, Tyrwhitt Drake/Mrs Wharrad bt Speer/Staddon +22.

Final: Chandler/Moore bt Tyrwhitt Drake/Mrs Wharrad +12.

##### Event 4. X Handicap Singles

Results not yet received.

##### Event 5. Handicap Singles

This was run as a Swiss Tournament as the weather was so bad, attendance was poor, and some members scratched. The winner was Howard J Betts with 4 wins, second was G T Coates with 3 wins.

##### Event 1. Challenge Cup. Open Singles

DRAW

First round: CDR. G. Borrett bt Mrs. E. Asa-Thomas +15, R.A.W. Williams bt D.A. Harris +3, E.C. Tyrwhitt-Drake bt R.E. Wallis +20, Dr. R. Wood bt E.E. Rees +2.

Semi-final: Williams bt Borrett +16. Wood bt Tyrwhitt-Drake +2.

Final: Williams bt Wood +5.

#### PROCESS

First round: Tyrwhitt-Drake bt Borrett +12, Wood bt Harris +4, Wallis bt Mrs. Asa-Thomas +17, Williams bt Rees +6.

Semi-final: Wood bt Trywhitt-Drake +18, Williams bt Wallis +17.

Final: Williams bt Wood +6.

##### Event 2. Level Singles Handicap 3½ – 7

DRAW

First round: Mrs. N.W.T. Cox bt Mrs. E.J. Tucker +22, R.P. Chappell bt Lt. Col. D.F.T. Brown +8.

Second round: N.W.T. Cox bt Mrs. E.C. Tyrwhitt-Drake +11, Mrs. Cox bt R.P. Chappell +13, G.A. Hutcheson bt Mrs. E.M. Temple +25, C.E. Knight bt M.P.W. Smith +20.

Semi-final: Mrs. Cox bt Cox +8, Hutcheson bt Knight +9.

Final: Mrs. Cox bt Hutcheson +12.

#### PROCESS

First Round: Cox bt Smith +15, Knight bt Mrs. Tyrwhitt-Drake +8.

Second round: Cox bt Brown +16, Mrs. Cox bt Mrs. Temple +21, Chappell bt Knight +8, Hutcheson bt Mrs. Tucker +11.

Semi-final: Cox bt Mrs. Cox +6, Chappell bt Hutcheson +22.

Final: Chappell bt Cox +22.

PLAY-OFF: Mrs. Cox bt Chappell +17.

##### Event 3. Handicap Singles. Handicap 7½ & over.

First round: Mrs. C.E. Knight (10) bt J.E. Van Berckel (10) W.O. (opp. scr.), Miss B.E. Dennant (9) bt Mrs. M.M. Grout (7½) +8, J.N.D. Bettley (8) bt Mrs. A.E. Millns (8) +15.

Semi-final: Miss Dennant bt Mrs. Knight +21, P. Simpson (8) bt Bettley +12.

Final: Simpson bt Miss Dennant +19.

PLAY-OFF for second place: Bettley bt Simpson +23.

##### Event 4. Handicap Singles. Unrestricted.

First round: P. Simpson (8) bt G.A. Hutcheson (4) +21, Dr. R. Wood (1) bt Mrs. E.C. Tyrwhitt-Drake (5) +9, J.N.D. Bettley (8) bt Mrs. A.E. Millns (8) +5, Mrs. E. Asa-Thomas (3) bt Mrs. E.M. Temple (7) +16.

Second round: R.P. Chappell (4½) bt R.A. Wallis (2½) +9, R.A.W. Williams (2½) bt Cmdr. G. Borrett (1) +16, E.C. Tyrwhitt-Drake (½) bt Mrs. E.J. Tucker (7) +11, Simpson bt Wood +1, Mrs. Asa-Thomas bt Bettley +12, C.E. Knight (4) bt Mrs. M.M. Grout (7½) +16, D.A. Harris (2) bt J.E. Van-Berckel (10) +22, M.P.W. Smith (5½) bt Lt. Col. D.F.T. Brown (6½) +19.

Third round: Williams bt Chappell +22, Simpson bt Tyrwhitt-Drake +15, Knight bt Mrs. Asa-Thomas +6, Smith bt Harris +22.

Semi-final: Simpson bt Williams +20, Knight bt Smith +5.

Final: Simpson bt Knight +15.

##### Event 5. Handicap Doubles

First round: Wood & Mrs. Millns (9) bt Knight & Chappell (8½) +10, Williams & Brown (9) bt Tyrwhitt-Drake & Bettley (8½) +3.

Second round: Wallis & Mrs. Tucker (9½) bt Mrs. Grout & Van-Berckel (17½) +13, Borrett & Hutcheson (5) bt Wood & Mrs. Millns +14, Williams & Brown bt Harris & Mrs. Dennant (11) +1, Smith & Simpson (13½) bt Mrs. Asa-Thomas & Mrs. E.C. Tyrwhitt-Drake (8) +10.

Semi-final: Borrett & Hutcheson bt Wallis & Mrs. Tucker +14, Williams & Brown bt Smith & Simpson +14.

Final: Williams & Brown bt Borrett & Hutcheson +8.

#### INTER-COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP

##### 2 – 5 June at Hurlingham and Roehampton

Only six Counties competed this year. County Dublin unfortunately had to withdraw and Sussex and Eastern Counties were unable to field a team. The schedule was therefore re-drawn so that the competition was able to finish on Thursday morning.

Considering the amount of rain that fell some six hours before play was due to start during a series of violent thunderstorms it was thanks to the drainage qualities of the Hurlingham and Roehampton lawns and the fine efforts of the ground staffs that play was able to start on time even with the lines immaculately marked out.

On Tuesday Berks & Oxon beat both Surrey and Middlesex, both thought to be serious contenders for the title and Northern Counties also came through unbeaten with wins over Bedford and Midland Counties.

By Wednesday evening Surrey had defeated Middlesex which put the holders out of contention, Berks and Oxon remained undefeated with wins over Northern Counties and Bedford whilst Surrey were still in the running with a win over Midland Counties as well as Middlesex.

On Thursday morning Berks & Oxon maintained their unbeaten record with a convincing win over Midland Counties to win their third championship in seven years dethroning Middlesex who had won for the past three years. Surrey beat Northern Counties to give them a second place.

As usual the play was patchy — some good some not so good, but all the participants appeared to enjoy themselves. It is hoped that more than six Counties will be able to field teams next year.

#### Round 1

Berks & Oxon	beat	Surrey	2 – 1
Northern Counties	beat	Bedford	2 – 1
Middlesex	beat	Midland Counties	2 – 1

#### Round 2

Berks & Oxon	beat	Middlesex	2 – 1
Surrey	beat	Bedford	3 – 0
Northern Counties	beat	Midland Counties	3 – 0

#### Round 3

Surrey	beat	Middlesex	2 – 1
Midland Counties	beat	Bedford	2 – 1
Berks & Oxon	beat	Northern Counties	2 – 1

#### Round 4

Berks & Oxon	beat	Bedford	3 – 0
Northern Counties	beat	Middlesex	3 – 0
Surrey	beat	Midland Counties	3 – 0

#### Round 5

Surrey	beat	Northern Counties	2 – 1
Berks & Oxon	beat	Midland Counties	3 – 0
Middlesex	beat	Bedford	2 – 1

#### FINAL ORDER

1. Berks & Oxon	5 wins	12 games
2. Surrey	4 wins	11 games
3. Northern Counties	3 wins	10 games
4. Middlesex	2 wins	6 games
5. Midland Counties	1 win	3 games
6. Bedford	0 wins	3 games