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CROQUET



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Coaches Corner

Tournament Results

MacRobertson Shield latest

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Editorial

Three items have caught my attention whilst bringing out this issue.

First, the Publicity & Development Committee has set up a Coaching Committee under the Chairmanship of John McCullough to continue the implementation and development of our National Coaching Scheme. The courses for Grade II Coaches and players at Southport and Cheltenham are now almost fully booked, and we anticipate setting up other courses during the coming season. They will be announced in 'Coaches Corner'.

The courses we are running at the Loughborough Summer School in August for both players and coaches are also beginning to fill up, indicating that there is a considerable demand at present for croquet coaching. The implementation of our National Coaching Scheme is a very important step in our development

all Short Croquet tournament. The top two will play a best-of-three match to decide the winner.

Edited highlights of the nine games and live action will be screened in the North West to give approximately 4½ hours total coverage. If all goes well, we hope that other parts of the country will have an opportunity to see these programmes. More details will be given in our next issue, due out on May 1st.

Third, and by no means least, Keith Wylie's book "Expert Croquet Tactics" has now been published. His book has brought home to me that even after playing for 16 years to reach a handicap of 3, there is far more to croquet than I realised. I am going to enjoy studying it! Details of how to obtain your copy are given elsewhere in this issue.

CHRIS HUDSON



Granada TV's new croquet lawn in the heart of Manchester. Soon to be the venue for the first televised croquet series.

plan, and may well prove to be one of the CA's major activities in future.

The second item is that we shall shortly be seeing a television croquet series in the North West. The series will be filmed over three days (May 7th to 9th) on Granada TV's new croquet lawn in the heart of Manchester next door to their studios. Granada are keen to have spectators at the event during filming, so anyone who would like to come along and watch would be very welcome.

Nigel Aspinall, Andrew Hope, Terence Read and David Peterson will be representing England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales respectively in an all-play-

Obituary: BOB CHAMBERLAIN

Having served over 60 years on Committees of all kinds, I am privileged to have been asked to write an obituary concerning Bob Chamberlain, late of the Nottingham Club.

A most likeable man of much ability, he served for many years on the administrative side, and entrants to the various activities at Highfields will remember his efficient handling of all matters relating to tournament play.

We shall sadly miss you, my dear old friend.

BUCK BUCKNELL
President, Nottingham Club

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Other contributions other than tournament results and reports should be sent to the Editor. They will be much welcomed and acknowledged. Photographs (preferably black and white) should also be sent to the Editor.

All correspondence about non-delivery of "Croquet", changes of address, telephone numbers, handicaps or officials should be sent to the CA Secretary and **not** to the Editor.

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Front Cover:

"Encouraging the next generation." Photo by Ian McDiarmid.

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1986 International Test Series

The MacRobertson Shield: A Brief History

The story of the MacRobertson Shield matches is told in detail by Colonel Prichard in his 'History of Croquet', but here is a brief synopsis that gives past results and the names of some of the players who have taken part.

The early test matches up to the Second World War were somewhat unsatisfactory as international contests, and on the first two occasions when the Australians visited this country, they were outclassed. The composition of visiting teams in those days before the advent of cheap, fast, air travel was limited to players who could afford both the time and the money to make the journey by sea.

In recent years, the standard of play between the three countries has evened up, and sponsorship and government assistance ensure that, more often than not, truly representative teams travel abroad to do battle for their countries.

Chronologically, the story is as follows:

1919. Request from the Victorian Croquet Association for an England team to tour Australia.

1924. Proposal from the Victorian Croquet Association that an Australian team should tour England.

1925. MacRobertson Shield donated for competition. Australia tour England. Result: England 3, Australia 0. Miss D.D. Steel, Duff Mathews, W. Longman and G.L. Reckitt (Maurice Reckitt's brother) were amongst the England players.

1927/8. England tour Australia. (Travelling by boat, the only option in those days, meant that the team was away for 5 months). Three Test matches were played. The teams each won one match and the third match was drawn. Australia took the Series on games won, by 20 games to 19. Miss D.D. Steel and Lt Col Du Pre were members of the England team.

After the Australian tour, the England team visited New Zealand and played one Test match there, winning by 4 games to 1, with one game unfinished. In this match, Arthur Ross beat Miss Steel and showed the promise that later made him one of the world's greatest players.

1930. New Zealand challenged Australia for the Shield, but England was unable to send a team to Australia for the Series. Australia beat New Zealand to retain the Shield by three matches to none.

1935. New Zealand and England visited Australia for the first triangular Series. All the Tests were played at Melbourne, with more than 1000 spectators watching one of the matches from a specially constructed stand. The final result was Australia 5, England 4, New Zealand 0, with Cyril Miller and J.C. Windsor providing the backbone of the Australian success.

1937. Australia toured England, but New Zealand were unable to make the trip. England won all 5 Tests, having in Miss Steel and Lt Col Du Pre two seasoned international players. J.A. McMordie, who reputedly had a wet weather mallet weighing 11lbs 11ozs, played in some of the matches for England, as did Robert Tingey, and Maurice Reckitt.



Great Britain's 1982 team - the current International Champions. Left to right (Front) Martin Murray, David Openshaw, Keith Wylie. (Back) Steve Mulliner, William Prichard, Andrew Hope.

STOP PRESS

Australia and New Zealand announce their teams. Those marked with an asterisk played in the 1982 Series in Australia.



Neil Spooner, Australia's Captain

AUSTRALIA

*Neil Spooner (Capt)
*Spencer Buck
*Barry Chambers
George Latham
Damon Bidecove
Alan Cleland

NEW ZEALAND

*John Prince (Capt)
Bob Jackson
*Paul Skinley
Graham Beale
*Joseph Hogan
*Roger Murfitt

1939/40. Arrangements were made for a triangular Series to be held in New Zealand, but it had to be cancelled owing to the outbreak of war.

1950/51. England toured New Zealand, but Australia did not compete. England lost by 2 matches to one, and the Shield was won by New Zealand for the first time. Arthur Ross was the New Zealand captain, and the

England team included John Solomon, then aged 19, who was selected to play despite the fact that he had not yet played in any championship nor won a major event in England. It was an inspired choice, fully justified later in the tour when John won both the New Zealand Open Championship and the Doubles Championship (partnered by Humphrey Hicks). Dudley Hamilton-Miller was the England Captain.

1956. New Zealand toured England, but Australia were not able to take part. New Zealand were dogged by bad luck, with their team members affected both by illness and appalling summer weather, and they eventually lost all five Test matches by large margins. Amongst the England players were Freddie Stone and Bobby Wiggins. Mrs Rotherham played in three of the Tests, a few years before her crowning achievement of being only the third woman to win the British Open Championship.

1963. England visited New Zealand for a triangular Series. For the first time, England was able to send her full strength overseas, and the team consisted of E.P.C. Cotter (Captain), J.W. Solomon, B. Lloyd Pratt, Miss E.J. Warwick, H.O. Hicks, D.W. Curtis, W.P. Ormerod and Dr W.R.D. Wiggins. England won the Series easily, the final score being England 6, Australia 2, and New Zealand 1. The series saw the first appearance of the 16-year-old New Zealander, John Prince, who was responsible for John Solomon's only defeat.

1969. England and New Zealand toured Australia. The English team was D.F. Strachan, Professor B.G. Neal, G.N. Aspinall, R.W. Bray, W.P. Ormerod, and J.W. Solomon (Captain). England won the Series comfortably, scoring 6 wins to New Zealand's 3. Australia were white-washed.

1974. The Series took place in England,

continued on page 10

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Compton: 21-29 September

For the second year running this tournament was held at the Compton Club and again proved to be a great success. It is always pleasant to play at this delightful venue, tucked away in a corner of the vast Saffrons Park. There are six superb lawns protected on two sides by a line of trees. The fourth side looks out on various football and hockey pitches which sometimes provide a noisy reminder that space for recreation is sought by many sports, and indeed the Compton Club may soon lose one of its lawns as a result.

The format of the tournament has been changed from two week-long tournaments to one nine day tournament, the final three days of which are taken up with an Open-weekend style of tournament. This is the same format that has been used in the popular Northern Championships, and combined with a return to the traditional date should make the South of England Championships a fitting climax to the season once again. Unfortunately this change of format resulted in the loss of a few events, principally the separate Men's and Women's Championships. There was also a somewhat imaginative redistribution of the spare trophies, which (if my memory serves me correctly) resulted in the winner of the Swiss at the weekend receiving a cup with a large letter 'D' inscribed thereon.



Steve Mulliner - South of England Champion

The manager this year was Roger Wood who kept the players busy and happy although double-banking was a necessity regretted by a few people. He was ably assisted by Roy Wallis and together they formed a formidable team both on and off the court, since they played together in the open doubles. There seemed to be a large number of local members busy with preparing lunch and tea. They are also to be thanked for their services.

There were a large number of visitors of all ages and from all parts of the country who contributed to the lively atmosphere and made the week so enjoyable. In particular there was the by now all too familiar crowd of rowdy young players who were determined to enjoy themselves, and play some croquet as well. On this occasion a large orange football was brought into play in the evenings with the result that Lawn 1 often received an unexpected visitor after a stray shot sailed over the bar. By Wednesday this activity had practically ceased owing to the chance discovery of a 'happy hour' at the Saffrons Sports Club, starting at six each evening. Despite these distractions all events but the 'B' class were completed in time for the arrival of the heavy guns on Friday.

The South of England Championships

The draw for the weekend part of the tournament included some tough first round pairings which meant that the Swiss collected some big names right from the start. It was noticeable that one half of the draw was quicker than the other, with one finalist waiting nearly a whole day for his opponent to be decided. As always when 'A' class players play together there was plenty of lively discussion about the games in play, incidents that happened, incidents that nearly happened, points of law, etiquette, lawns, hoops, balls, clips, corner pegs, the colour of the beer, the football results, page three, monetarism, Darwinism and newts.

KEITH AITON

RESULTS

South of England Championship (O'Callaghan Gold Cup)

1st Round: J.O. Walters bt M. Ormerod +18(TP); Dr M. Murray bt L. Wharrad +19; S.N. Mulliner bt M.E. Heap +26(TP); C. Southern bt Dr R. Wood +8; P. Cordingley bt J.S.H. Battison +12; T.D. Harrison bt R.D.C. Prichard +20; J.E. Guest bt D.N.S. Peterson +6; K.M.H. Aiton bt K.F. Wiley +12; A.J. Mrozinski bt Dr C.A. Parker +21; D.W. Shaw bt Mrs H.G. Wills +10

2nd Round: D.G. Palmer bt D.A. Harris +13; Walters bt Murray +19(TP); Mulliner bt Southern +25; Cordingley bt Harrison +23; Aiton bt Guest +6; Mrozinski bt Shaw +19; J.R. Hilditch bt T. Vale +6; D.C. Caporn bt Miss P.E. Parker +6

3rd Round: D. Palmer bt Walters -17, +5, +24; Mulliner bt Cordingley -17, +14, +26(TP); Mrozinski bt Aiton +1, +6; Hilditch bt Caporn -6, +8, +8

Semi-Finals: Mulliner bt D. Palmer +26, +24; Mrozinski bt Hilditch -2, +17, +12

Final: Mulliner bt Mrozinski +26

Play-off for 3rd Place: Hilditch drew with D. Palmer (1 game each: 3rd game abandoned, owing to fog!)

Ionides Challenge Trophy (Advanced Play)

DRAW

1st Round: C. Southern bt E.C. Tyrwhitt-Drake +21; Dr R. Wood bt J.S.H. Battison (wo); A.J. Mrozinski bt D.G. Palmer +25; K.M.H. Aiton bt D.N.S. Peterson +2

2nd Round: T.D. ?arrison bt L. Wharrad +17; Wood bt Southern +5; Mrozinski bt Aiton +3; J.O. Walters bt R.E. Wallis +11

Semi-Finals: Harrison bt Wood +21; Mrozinski bt Walters +20

Final: Harrison bt Mrozinski +11

PROCESS

1st Round: Wharrad bt Aiton +16; Southern bt Wallis +15; Harrison bt Peterson 18; Walters bt Tyrwhitt-Drake (wo)

2nd Round: Wood bt Wharrad +12; Southern bt Mrozinski +5; Harrison bt Battison (wo); Walters bt Palmer +19

Semi-Finals: Southern bt Wood +9; Harrison bt Walters +25

Final: Harrison bt Southern +19

Outright Winner: T.D. Harrison

Play-off for 2nd Place: Mrozinski bt Southern

Devonshire Park Salver

(Advanced Play: 2½ bisques and over)

DRAW

1st Round: Miss P.E. Parker bt Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt-Drake +19; D.A. Harris bt Dr C.A. Parker +6

2nd Round: D.C. Caporn bt D.C.D. Wiggins +13; D.W. Shaw bt Miss Parker +3; Harris bt Lt Col D.F.T. Brown +15; Major T. Vale bt Mrs H.G. Wills +14

Semi-Finals: Shaw bt Caporn +18; Vale bt

Harris +15

Final: Vale bt Shaw +23

PROCESS

1st Round: Caporn bt Vale +3; Wiggins bt Mrs Wills +22

2nd Round: Miss Parker bt Caporn +8; Dr Parker bt Shaw +4; Wiggins bt Harris +20; Mrs Tyrwhitt-Drake bt Brown +6

Semi-Finals: Miss Parker bt Dr Parker +9; Wiggins bt Mrs Tyrwhitt-Drake +12

Final: Miss Parker bt Wiggins +8

Play-Off: Miss Parker bt Vale +2

Luard Cup

(Level Play: 5½ bisques and over)

DRAW

Semi-Finals: Philp bt Miss Dennant +18; Mrs Vale bt Mrs I.B. Tucker +13

PROCESS

Semi-Finals: Mrs Tucker bt Mrs Grout +3; Philp bt Mrs Vale +10

Marriage

Semi-Final: Mrs Vale bt Mrs Tucker +16

Final: Mrs Vale bt Philp +20

Trevor Williams Cup

(Level Play: 9 bisques and over)

DRAW

Final: Philp bt Mrs Wharrad +2

PROCESS

Final: Salmon bt Mrs Wharrad +11

Play-Off: E.J.A. Salmon bt Philp +1

Victor Vases

(Advanced Play)

1st Round: K.M.H. Aiton & A.J. Mrozinski bt D.A. Harris & E.C. Tyrwhitt-Drake +11, +19; D.N.S. Peterson & J.O. Walters bt C. Southern & Cdr G. Borrett +11, -6(OTP), +20(TP)

Semi-Finals: Aiton & Mrozinski bt T.D. Harrison & D.G. Palmer +5, +7(TPO); Peterson & Walters bt Dr R. Wood & R.E. Wallis -24, +19, +17

Final: Aiton & Mrozinski bt Peterson & Walters -2, +17, +10

Anna Millns Salvers

(Handicap Doubles)

Semi-Finals: Mr & Mrs Wharrad bt Caporn & Mrs Millns +12; Major & Mrs Vale bt Dr & Mrs Parker +13

Final: Major & Mrs Vale bt Mr & Mrs Wharrad +12

Sussex Challenge Cup

(Handicap Singles)

1st Round: Mrs T. Vale (7) bt T.D. Harrison (1½) +11; Dr C.A. Parker (2½) bt K.M.H. Aiton (-1) wo; C. Southern (½) bt W.E. Philp (9) +6; Mrs M.M. Grout (6½) bt Mrs M.E. Wharrad (9) +4; D.W. Shaw (4½) bt Miss B.E. Dennant (7½) +2; D.C.D. Wiggins (5) bt Major T. Vale (4) +23; E.C. Tyrwhitt-Drake (3½) bt D.C. Caporn (3) +14; D.A. Harris (3½) bt Mrs H.G. Wills (6) +20; Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt-Drake (5) bt A.J. Kellaway (9) +16; Mrs A.E. Millns (7½) bt R.P. Chappell (4) wo; D.G. Palmer (2) bt L. Wharrad (1) +7; Lt Col D.F.T. Brown (5) bt Mrs I.B. Tucker (6) +12; Mrs C.A. Parker (10) bt Miss D. Harding (12) +19; J.O. Walters (0) bt A.J. Mrozinski (2) +21; Dr R. Wood (½) bt Miss P.E. Parker (4) +10

2nd Round: Mrs Vale bt Dr Parker +1; Southern bt Mrs Grout +14; Wiggins bt Shaw +23; Harris bt Tyrwhitt-Drake +18; Mrs Tyrwhitt-Drake bt Mrs Millns +12; Palmer bt Brown +21(TP); Walters bt Mrs Parker +13; Peterson bt Wood +14

3rd Round: Southern bt Mrs Vale +14; Harris bt Wiggins +2; Palmer bt Mrs Tyrwhitt-Drake (wo); Peterson bt Walters +26

Semi-Finals: Southern bt Harris +22; Peterson bt Palmer +4

Final: Peterson bt Southern +9

Felixstowe Cup

(Handicap 'Y')

Semi-Finals: Caporn bt Harrison +22; Mrozinski bt Wharrad +18

Final: Mrozinski bt Caporn 13

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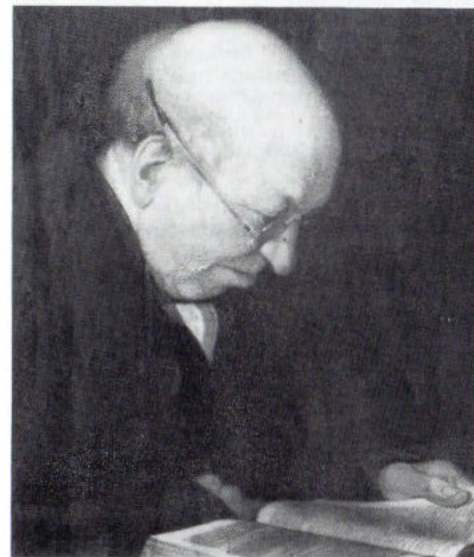
Special Feature

John Jaques & Son Ltd:

A Story of Enterprise and Craftsmanship

The firm of Jaques was founded in 1795 at a time when important chapters of English history were being written. William Pitt the younger had risen to be "Master of England" at the age of 25. The United States of America had just been born, and some of the world's great figures – George Washington, Napoleon, Wellington and Nelson – were centre stage.

Whilst the drama of international politics was unfolding nearly 200 years ago, Thomas Jaques left home in the country to seek his fortune in London. His adventures were destined to have a considerable influence on the development of British sports and pastimes.



Thomas Jaques: founder of the Company

Young Thomas was the son of a farmer, of Huguenot descent, of Grittleton, near Chippenham. Long before he left school the boy decided that farming should not be his life's work. When his schooldays were over, he left home in a wagon going to London – a considerable adventure in those days – where he found work at the premises of a Mr Ivy, a bone and ivory turner, of 65 Leather Lane.

Thomas was so fascinated with his employer's work that, at the age of 16 he became apprenticed to him, and soon developed into a craftsman of outstanding promise. In 1794 – five years after Thomas joined him – Mr Ivy died, and at the age of 21, his former apprentice married Mr Ivy's niece and established himself as "Thomas Jaques, (Manufacturer of Ivory, Hardwoods, Bone, and Tunbridge Ware)."

Though he was only the proprietor of a one-man business, Thomas boldly offered his wares "for Wholesale and for Exportation". Not only was he an exceptional craftsman, but he must have been a very enterprising man of business. His materials included ivory, wood, and bone, while his range of goods comprised carved snuff-boxes, coat, hat and hair brushes, paper knives, work boxes, glove stretchers, and the inlaid woodwork known as Tunbridge Ware.

Thomas Jaques became, in 1795, the proud father of a son, John, about whose future career there was apparently no doubt; for he was duly apprenticed to his father's

business in 1810, and entered the firm as a partner in 1816, when the firm became "T. and J. Jaques, Wholesale Ivory Turners". It prospered greatly; John in due course married, and the family line was further strengthened when John the Second was born; he was also in due course apprenticed to the firm, whose growth necessitated additional premises, which were acquired in Hatton Garden, the original factory in Leather Lane still being retained.

Tallis's "London Street Views", a series of illustrated maps and plans "elegantly engraved on steel" shows, in its Hatton Garden section, the premises of Jaques, Ivory and Wood Turner. This engraving was issued in 1838, and an advertisement in Tallis's includes, amongst a long list of Jaques' products, the quaint detail "Dentists supplied with Sea Horse Teeth".

In the following year, John the First achieved a wide reputation as the inventor and designer of a set of chessmen which were to become standardized, all subsequent chessmen being made according to his design and being incorporated in the character of the game. John Jaques appears to have recognised what no other ivory turners had done, that there was a need for a better design in chessmen. On the one hand were the excessively elaborated and therefore costly hand-carved reproductions of kings and queens enthroned in state, with every realistic detail which the mind of craftsmen unacquainted with court life could envisage; on the other hand the rudely turned and daubed conventional designs whose height alone showed the distinctions of rank.

The designs which John Jaques prepared came between the two. He designed them in cooperation with his father-in-law, Nathaniel Cooke, proprietor of the 'Illustrated London News'. They were good designs, in which the identity of each piece was made plain but simple enough to be reproduced economically at a reasonable price. The king was symbolized by a crown, the queen by a coronet, the bishop by a mitre, and so forth. The knights' heads were copied faithfully from the horses of the Elgin marbles, and the pawn was designed to represent the masonic emblem of a square and compasses.

The base of each piece represented a cushion on which the emblems might rest. But stems of different heights were also introduced between the cushion and the emblem as a concession to the conventional method of identifying the pieces.

Mr Howard Staunton, one of the famous exponents of the English school of chess, was so struck by the improvement which these designs introduced that he allowed them to be called by his name, and gave permission to use a facsimile of his signature on every box of pieces.

The soundness of the design ensured its immediate commercial success. It became, within a few years, not only the standard design for this country, but wherever the European form of the game was played. Reproduction on a quantity basis showed the need for slight modifications only – another tribute to the thought of the original designer. The frills and beads were slightly strengthened, the knights' ears were set further back, and the collar of the pawn made at a rather less

acute angle. These modifications were simply introduced to avoid the danger of breakages in transit and in use.

There are always people who see a degradation in the quantity production of any article previously made by hand, or the commercial success of a cheapened line. For them a few "special" chessmen are still produced, but as J.R.J. Murray – a notable authority on chess history – remarks, there are few chess players today who would care to use anything but the Staunton chessmen. The universal adoption of a standard design has done more for the game than simply to provide its devotees with an agreeable instrument of play.

The rapid popularization of the game from the late eighteenth century onwards must have been due in some part at least to the simplification of play, following a more easily identifiable set of pieces. The many books of chess problems published since that period also owe much to the use of symbols first selected by John Jaques. One has only to compare the symbols used to illustrate any modern chess problem with those of the pre-Staunton chessmen days to see the advantage of clarity which have been gained.



John Jaques the Second: responsible for introducing Croquet to this country

John Jaques the Second added to the reputation of the firm by introducing Croquet into this country, and his display at the Great Exhibition attracted such wide attention that the game speedily became the vogue in fashionable circles. John was regarded as the greatest authority on Croquet, and in 1864 wrote and published a book on the Laws and Regulations of the Game, fully illustrated by diagrams and engravings.

The firm had now become Jaques and Son; and they took the opportunity of adding to the Book of Rules of Croquet, details and illustrations of the other games equipment which they manufactured, and for which they had already been awarded two prize medals. These Jaques products, in addition to their Staunton chess sets in various qualities – from Boxwood to "Finest African Ivory in a Spanish Mahogany Case" – and Croquet, included a series of indoor games which will always recall memories of our childhood.

One of these was "Happy Families", which John Jaques introduced. The original drawings for Mr Bung the Brewer, Mr Pots the Painter, Mr Grits the Grocer, and all the other

affectionately remembered characters, were commissioned from, and drawn by John Tenniel, afterwards to become the famous Sir John Tenniel, chief Cartoonist of "Punch".

"Happy Families" is still enjoyed by children today and the copyright of the original cards is the property of the Jaques firm. John Jaques the Second was not only a fine craftsman, but a man of originality and enterprise. In recognition of the notable work he did for his trade he was presented, in 1869, with the Freedom of the City of London, and was also a prominent member of the Turners Company.

The name of Jaques has long since become a household word in connection with sports and indoor games. They invented and introduced "Snakes and Ladders", "Ludo", "Tiddly Winks" and also developed a very large demand for their Dominoes, Draughts and Backgammon.

In partnership with his brother Percy, John Jaques the Third entered the firm in 1884. He was a very keen athlete, and vastly extended the production of sports equipment for Cricket, Tennis, Football, Hockey, Badminton and Archery; he also introduced improved methods of manufacture and increased the firm's reputation for indoor games which were destined to achieve wide popularity.

Among these was a game originally marketed under the trade-name "Gossima"; it attracted little attention, but Jaques saw its possibilities and rechristened it "Ping Pong". Its success was spectacular. In 1902-3 the "Ping Pong" boom became nationwide, but when the pastime developed into a championship game the somewhat frivolous trade mark "Ping Pong" gradually merged into the more dignified "Table Tennis".

Among the firm's treasures is a pattern book containing illustrated examples of almost the entire output of the firm since its commencement. But, alas, only remnants of this book remain, for it was sadly damaged in the air raids of 1941. The earlier illustrations were drawn by John Jaques the First, his son, and their successors; but, later, printed trade labels were inserted to identify the articles.

Another development attributed to John Jaques the Third was the installation of modern machinery for the production of Bowls, a sport then rapidly becoming popular; the result being to set the seal of success upon Jaques Bowls – a happy fulfilment of the claim "Bowling Green Bowles Turn'd Correctly" made by Thomas Jaques on his first business card.

During the successful career of Jaques the Third, the character of the business imperceptibly changed, more and more emphasis being placed upon the manufacture of Sports and Games equipment to the exclusion of the purely Parlour Pastimes which were then declining in popularity. All the old craftsmanship which had made the firm famous was still in evidence, but harnessed to modern methods.

During their first 150 years of existence, Jaques' experience and enterprise had built up an organization which provided service for almost every type of sport, game and pastime. John Jaques the Fourth, as Managing Director, developed up-to-date manufacturing methods still further, and also inherited the

Special Feature



John (left) and Chris Jaques: carrying on the company's traditions today

family craftsmanship. Among his achievements was the miniature set of Staunton Chessmen, with board, on a pedestal table, which he made for Queen Mary's Doll's House.

The demand – very noticeable during the concluding stages of the administration of John Jaques the Third – for high-class sports goods, became more and more pronounced, and the new methods of production instituted by John the Fourth resulted in the Company being in a splendid position to meet this demand. Composition Lawn Bowls, steel-shafted Badminton rackets, laminated Tennis racket frames, and Archery gear, designed in accordance with the latest scientific research, were some of Jaques' specialities that were added whilst retaining all the old tried and proved games, such as Staunton Chess, Happy Families, Ping Pong, Snakes and Ladders, and Ludo.

During the 1939-45 World War, the firm concentrated mostly on secret work for the War Office, but John Jaques the Fourth had to meet the most devastating blow the business had ever sustained, for in 1941 during the London Air Raids, the whole of the business buildings in Hatton Garden were completely demolished. Immediately, fresh premises had to be sought, and were eventually found at West Croydon, and here, in an incredibly short time, he was able to announce "Business as usual".

The difficulty of such a transfer in wartime can be imagined, but the advent of peace found the Company in good shape and looking for fresh challenges, offering special equipment for ships, clubs and hotels, sundries such as garden furniture and picnic baskets, as well as their full range of sports and indoor games.

Many famous cruise liners were fitted out with Jaques products and for the QE2, John Jaques the Fifth, who in conjunction with his brother Christopher now directs the business, invented Marine Snooker – the idea being to use discs rather than balls to overcome the rolling of the ship when at sea.

Fifteen years ago the Jaques brothers decided to follow their forefathers' trail into the quality end of the market – particularly emphasised by the range of fine snooker tables they now produce – and this ensures that even in a declining market their products usually enjoy a steady growth.

About five years ago the Company amalgamated with Webber Brothers to develop and promote their football ranges. The association had been a long and happy one – John Jaques recalls being taken to the zoo by Miss Webber when just a child!

At the moment America especially is enjoying a boom in Croquet. Only home-producing for the bottom end of the market, the Americans are keeping John Jaques busy in their demand for the "quality English made" sets. As a direct result of this association, the Company have recently developed a chip-proof coating process for croquet hoops and also introduced the "square non-brass ring mallet".

Other sports also feature in the current Jaques catalogue, including Archery and Bowls, and in the field of Table Tennis their Autofold Table has been selected for the range of Sports Centres recently being constructed under the SASH (Standard Approach to Sports Halls) scheme. Many are also in Competition use.

Three years ago the Company introduced the French game of "Boules" to this country and this has become very popular.



Centre pegs being finished at the factory

And so the Jaques "Dynasty" goes on. Chris and John Jaques both have sons now in the business – John the Sixth and Benjamin, and if they keep the family firm going in the same pace as their ancestors, many new sporting innovations and ideas can be expected from this long-established and well reputed company through its bicentenary in 1995 and long past, well into the 21st century.

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Care for your garden.

LAWNSMAN

Keeps your lawn greener longer.

Nottingham: 6th October THE LONGMAN CUP Tyneside Triumph

From the Whitley Bay Guardian:
11th October, 1985

Tyneside Croquet Club ended a successful first competitive season on Sunday last when they won the National Longman Cup in Nottingham. The game against Peterborough was played on the excellent lawns in rather blustery weather which gradually deteriorated into constant heavy rain by the end of the afternoon.

The morning's doubles games ended even at one game each. Derek Trotman and John Portwood started well but the opposition gradually gained control and won the game comfortably.

DRAMATIC

After lunch the games proceeded steadily and by tea break Taggart had demolished his singles opponent and Trotman was comfortably ahead in his game. In the doubles game each side had one ball on the peg and the other on 3-back but Peterborough had the innings.

Just after 5 o'clock with Tyneside two to one up the next ten minutes were the most dramatic of the season - Derek took a ball round to rover but the lawn was fast becoming waterlogged and a finish was looking doubtful.

In the doubles Peterborough pegged Brian's ball out and were in a good position to get their second ball to the peg and win. However, Ron Green had trouble in 4-back with all three balls within John's reach and by his hoop.

After much consideration the referee judged the ball not to have run the hoop. John hit in and, living dangerously, made the necessary three hoops and pegged out to win the game and match for Tyneside.

As Tyneside now had a 3-1 lead, Derek's match was abandoned, with him in the lead by eleven points.

After an atrocious journey home in torrential rain and heavy traffic the team and supporters reached the Wooden Doll in North Shields by about nine-thirty, where the Manager David Jones was waiting with the champagne on ice to fill the cup and celebrate the victory.

RESULTS

Semi-Finals

Tyneside bt Wolverhampton 3-2
Thomas Cook bt Hurlingham 3-2

Final

Tyneside bt Thomas Cook 3-1

Doubles

(Tyneside names first)
J. Portwood & D. Trotman (20) lost to A. Kirby & R. Coates (19) -16
B. Thompson & J. Taggart (24) bt R. Green & N. Richardson (19) +10
Portwood & Thompson (20) bt Kirby & Green (14) +5

Singles

Taggart (13) bt Coates (14) +17
Trotman v. Richardson (game abandoned - lawn under water)

HOW THE 'SUNDAY SUN' SAW IT!

Champs strike blow

The lords and ladies of a council estate in North

Shields have beaten the aristocracy at its own game.

Tyneside Croquet Club, which meets at a former bowling green at Smith's Park, has won one of the sport's top awards from stiff upperlip opposition.

Four members of the newly-formed club, who normally have to beat off vandals and mickey-taking from yobs on Meadow Well Estate, have given croquet's toffee-nosed image a mallet blow by winning the coveted Longman Cup.

The trophy, established almost 60 years ago, has been displayed in stately homes and mansions. But now its 'home' is a council estate where police recently quelled a riot.

The club hammered another newly-formed team from Peterborough by 3-1 last Sunday to take the trophy. Tyneside club treasurer Alice Jones, of Ventnor Gardens, Whitley Bay, said: 'We are delighted'.

The trophy is now in Mrs Jones' living room until the club decides what to do with it.

Ipswich win Essex/Suffolk League

Despite the worst summer in East Anglia weather-wise for 58 years, all matches in the Essex/Suffolk League were completed to time. Ipswich, despite losing their unbeaten record in the last match of the season and tying on points with Colchester Essex, ran out creditable winners by virtue of a much superior game difference.

Colchester Suffolk, Bentley and Farlingaye were also equal on points and occupied third, fourth and fifth positions respectively on game difference, whilst Havering and Ingatestone provided stalwart support at the bottom, their sole win being against the 1984 winners, Bentley. P.M.H.

League Results:

8 points: Ipswich (Games 26-9); Colchester Essex (Games 21-14)

4 points: Colchester Suffolk (Games 16-19); Bentley (Games 15-20); Farlingaye (Games 14-21)

2 points: Havering & Ingatestone (Games 13-22)

Bristol win South West League

The inaugural season of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society Croquet League ended in a thrilling climax at Bath on September 29th.

The new League, organised by the South West Federation, had two divisions, each split into Northern and Southern sections in order to limit the amount of travelling involved.

The Senior League was restricted to players handicap 14 and below and attracted

Chris Steele,
Marketing Manager
of the Cheltenham &
Gloucester Building
Society, presenting
the Federation Shield
to John McCullough,
the Bristol Captain,
with the other team
members looking on.
(L to R): Roger
Jenkins, Donald
Gugan and Ray
Ransom



Croquet in the Regions

8 entries. Final League positions were as follows:

Senior League (Northern Section)

2 wins: Nailsea (Games won 16, lost 7); Cheltenham (Games won 9, lost 12)

1 win: Worcester (Games won 10, lost 11); Bath (Games won 9, lost 14)

Nailsea gained first place as they had won their match against Cheltenham.

Senior League (Southern Section)

3 wins: Bristol (Games won 15, lost 4)

2 wins: Budleigh Salterton (Games won 10, lost 9)

1 win: Parkstone (Games won 8, lost 13)

0 wins: Sidmouth (Games won 7, lost 14)

The beginners' league, for players handicap 15 and above, attracted 11 entries. Bath won the Northern Section and Parkstone the Southern Section. In the playoff, Parkstone won 3-2, Charles Moon being Parkstone's hero with 2 close wins.

The Senior League play-off, played in early morning mist and then hot afternoon sunshine, drew a good crowd and the Sponsors were treated to Croquet at its most exciting.

With the score 1-1 at lunchtime, Nailsea stormed to leads in all 3 afternoon games. At peg and peg v 5 and 4-back, John Mann and Michael Poole seemed to have John McCullough and Donald Gugan beaten, but Michael sent a ball off in a croquet stroke to give McCullough not only the innings but also a ball at 5 and the Bristol skipper responded with a delayed triple. John Jeffrey levelled the match at 2-2 with an emphatic win over Roger Jenkins but meanwhile an all-round break by Ray Ransom had given Bristol a late lead in his game against Peter Dyke. Five minutes before time Peter hit in when on 2-back and 2-back v peg and 3-back. To level he needed to go to the peg and peel white through 2-back. At this point, white was stranded on the North boundary! He played a marvellous turn, going to the peg and ending in position for a straight peel from about 5 feet. With the tension unbearable he took the shot but saw white hit the wire and bounce away, leaving Ray the winner +1 on time.

In presenting the shield to the winners, Chris Steele, Marketing Manager of the C&G, described his company's pleasure at what had been achieved this season and announced an offer of renewed sponsorship for 1986 to end the season on the highest possible note.

JOHN McCULLOUGH

1986 International Test Series

allowing England the luxury of fielding 10 players during the course of the Test matches, amongst whom were Nigel Aspinall, Martin Murray, Paul Hands, John Solomon, Keith Wylie, William Ormerod, Bill Perry and William Prichard. For the first time, the team was designated 'Great Britain', and it won all its 6 matches, with New Zealand coming second, beating Australia by 2 matches to one.

1979. The Great Britain team that toured New Zealand was composed of 6 players: Professor Neal, Martin Murray, William Prichard, Nigel Aspinall, Michael Heap and David Openshaw. New Zealand won the Series, having in Bob Jackson a player who had improved so much that he was generally acclaimed to be the best croquet player in the world. John Prince was still as good as ever, and New Zealand's two brilliant young players, John Hogan and Paul Skinley, set the seal on their victory. (Skinley in fact brought off a sextuple peel in one of the tests.) The final score was New Zealand 5, Great Britain 4, and Australia 0.

1982. The last triangular Series was held in Australia. The New Zealanders were not in the same form as they had been in 1979, but the Australians were stronger, with Neil Spooner and Peter Olsen playing particularly well. Great Britain's strength was in their doubles pairs, and they ran out close winners of the Series by 5 matches to Australia's 4, with a somewhat dispirited New Zealand team failing to achieve any wins at all.



Freddie Stone pictured at Budleigh Salterton last season at the Home Internationals.

He was a member of England's 1956 MacRobertson Shield team. Winning a CA Silver Medal in 1912 at the age of 13½, he came back to croquet after a career in the army, and was reputed to be the bardest bitter the game has ever seen. On one occasion, his ball struck a sloping bank at Budleigh, soared into the air and down a steep hill to the town below, where it was later found a quarter of a mile away.

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Conditions

The MacRobertson Shield Conditions

The Trophy

- (a) The Trophy shall be known as 'The MacRobertson International Croquet Shield'.
- (b) The Trophy shall be open to competition by teams representative of their respective nations.
- (c) A new nation will be admitted subject to the unanimous agreement of Australia, New Zealand, and Great Britain.
- (d) Application by a new nation to play in the next competition should be made no later than the current competition.
- The holders of the Trophy shall be responsible for its safe custody, for transporting it to the venue of the next Test Series, for displaying it at Test Match venues where possible, and for handing it over to the next winning Nation.

Challenges

- A competition shall be held from time to time provided that no competition be held less than 3 years after the preceding one. The date and venue of the next competition and the venue and approximate date of the next but one competition shall be agreed during a current competition.

Composition of Teams

- Subject to Condition 21, a team shall consist of not more than 6 and not less

MacRobertson Shield Results:

Date	Winner	Venue	Matches Won
1925:	England	England	England 3, Australia 0
1927/28:	Australia	Australia	Australia 1½, England 1½
1930:	Australia	Australia	Australia 3, New Zealand 0
1935:	Australia	Australia	Australia 5, England 4, New Zealand 0
1937:	England	England	England 5, Australia 0
1950/51:	New Zealand	New Zealand	New Zealand 2, England 1
1956:	England	England	England 5, New Zealand 0
1963:	England	New Zealand	England 6, Australia 2, New Zealand 1
1969:	England	Australia	England 6, New Zealand 3, Australia 0
1974:	Gt Britain	England	Gt Britain 6, New Zealand 2, Australia 1
1979:	New Zealand	New Zealand	New Zealand 5, Gt Britain, Australia 0
1982:	Gt Britain	Australia	Gt Britain 5, Australia 4, New Zealand 0

'EXPERT CROQUET TACTICS'

This book has now been published and costs 18gns. Copies are obtainable from me at 17 Carlton Crescent, Southampton, SO9 5AL. Orders coming from the U.K. or Eire should be accompanied by a cheque for £20.80 (one book) or £41.20 (two books), which covers packing and postage and, when two books are ordered, insurance. Players in New Zealand and Australia who have been told what to pay should send a sterling cheque with each order. Other orders from overseas should not be accompanied by any payment: I shall reply quoting the appropriate price. Some copies may be available at one or two tournaments, but I do not propose to make any special arrangements.

There are 250 copies in the first edition. The book is bound in red cloth, has 150 pages and 185 diagrams, is about 28 cm by 20 cm and weighs about 770 gm.

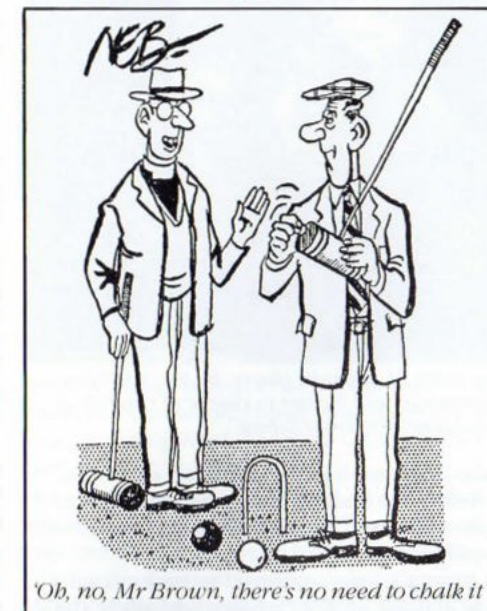
Keith Wylie

The MacRobertson Shield Conditions

Test Match, they shall play in the order of merit based on their current form.

The Players

- In order to qualify for a nation a player shall either:
 - have been born in that nation's country, or
 - have been resident there for 3 years immediately preceding the commencement of the competition.



The Management

- The competition shall be held according to the Laws of Association Croquet and Regulations 3-9 published by the Croquet Association in agreement with the Australian and New Zealand Croquet Councils.
- The names and orders of merit and partnerships of all competing players shall be notified by each Captain to the Manager appointed for each Test Match at a meeting of all three. This meeting is to be held at latest by 8am on the morning of the first day of the Test Match but preferably on the previous day. This meeting shall constitute the start of the Test Match. Should Condition 21 subsequently come into operation such exchange shall become completely ineffective and new lists shall be notified as soon as possible. No Nation may initially enter more names than the number of players agreed to be played in the Test Match about to be played.
- When the Round or Rounds are due to be played over two days or less, then the doubles Round shall precede the singles Round. But when the Rounds are due to be played over three days, then the doubles Round may be played on any of the three days, as mutually agreed by the Captains. Where 6 singles are to be played, Nos 2, 4, 6 shall be played on the first day of singles matches and Nos 1, 3, 5 on the other day of singles matches excepting that, by mutual agreement between the Captains, the order may be reversed or decided by the toss of a coin. Where less than 6 singles are to be played a comparable situation shall obtain. Should there not be mutual agreement

The Play-Off Competition

- In the play-off the two challenging nations shall play an abbreviated Test Match against each other and the winner shall play an abbreviated Test Match against the Holder to decide the winner of the play-off.
- An abbreviated Test Match shall consist of 1 Round and no player may play twice.
- (a) When the teams are 6 per side, the Round shall consist of 4 singles and 1 double.
- (b) When the teams are 5 per side, the Round shall consist of 5 singles.
- (c) When the teams are 4 per side, the Round shall consist of 2 singles and 1 double.
- (d) When the teams are 3 per side, the Round shall consist of 3 singles.

Order of Merit

- When two or more players are playing singles matches in the same Round of a

between the Captains then the Manager is to decide the issue.

- The croquet authority of the Host Nation shall allocate the courts on which the matches are to be played, and shall appoint a Referee for each Test Match and Assistant Referees to be available on call for each court.
- Unfinished matches shall be finished at a later stage if necessary to secure a decision on a Test Match or Series.

The Conditions

- These Conditions shall only be altered by mutual agreement between the Associations of those countries who have competed for the Trophy in either of the two immediately preceding Series.

- (a) If a casualty is suffered by a team before the start of play in a Test Match the following principles shall apply:

The team shall have the option to introduce a substitute or require the withdrawal from the opposing team of the appropriate number of players, provided that there are no fewer than 3 players per side. If a nation is unable to field a minimum of 3 players it shall forfeit the Test Match.

(b) If a casualty is suffered by a team during a Test Match which makes it impossible to complete that Test Match in the manner planned the following principles should apply.

(i) If it is impossible thereby to complete, with the original players, a singles or doubles match which has begun, the defaulting nation forfeits that match.

(ii) The arrangements for that Test Match should be adjusted in a way following the principles underlying (a) above. But no adjustment should be made which could result in the Test Match being drawn, unless one of the nations has already established a winning lead in the competition.

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Tournament Reports & Results (1)

Southport: 14-15 September

The entry for this traditional Winter Weekend was of very high quality, and before the wind reached gale force some excellent play was observed. John Walters, fresh from winning the Chairman's Salver, produced a triple peel even before the morning coffee was served, and Colin Irwin, maintaining his form from the President's Cup, completed one shortly afterwards. The surprises in the first round were sprung by Bill Lamb and Andrew Collin, who beat Nick Hyne and Keith Aiton respectively.

Entry into the Swiss inspired the above-mentioned losers to attempt feats artistic and spectacular. In a one-ball finish against Paul Stoker, Nick pegged out by jumping rover, while Keith managed three peels of a quintuple on the opponent. Meanwhile, Bill Lamb wondered what tactical error he had made: his opponent, Steve Lewis, went to 4-back in the third turn and tripled out in the fifth! I suppose that, according to Keith Aiton's letter, the mistake lay in not making a roquet in the fourth turn for the TPO, but I'm not sure that any tactics could have saved him from Steve's deadly shooting. When was the last fifth-turn triple peel in a competition? The only previous instance at Southport was in a friendly game, by John Meads in 1981.

While this was going on, Andrew Collin was continuing his giant-killing activities with a good win over John Walters. In the



Dan Kelly, a regular player in the Southport Tournament and Master in charge of Croquet at Manchester Grammar School

Swiss, the emphasis was still on spectacle, as Nick Hyne bent his mallet but disappointingly refrained from throwing it at the glasshouse.

Strong winds continued to make conditions difficult on the Sunday, and while the rest of us thrashed around in the Swiss, the

final was played best of three between Richard Hilditch and Andrew Collin. It was one game each when we finished. After some undistinguished play in the third, Andrew was laid up with a rush to the peg. Richard, who for the past hour had roqueted nothing but a referee, now hit the last shot but clanged both an easy penult and a very easy rover, so Andrew won what is nowadays a high-class event.

The Southport and Birkdale Club is staging a wide range of events next season, so players of all levels can enjoy visiting us.

ANDREW BENNET

RESULTS

Stoker Decanter (Advanced Play)

1st Round: C. Irwin bt C. Southern +13(TP); A. Bennet bt Mrs M. Collin +3; W.E. Lamb bt N.G. Hyne +3; J.R. Hilditch bt D. Kelly +11; M.H. Sandler bt D. Williamson +9; A. Collin bt K.M.H. Aiton +17; J.O. Walters bt P. Stoker +24(TP); S.E. Lewis bt M. French +17

2nd Round: Irwin bt Bennet +19; Hilditch bt Lamb +22; Collin bt Sandler +3; Walters bt Lewis +14

Semi-Finals: Hilditch bt Irwin +5; Collin bt Walters +13

Final: A. Collin bt Hilditch +9,15,+2

Swiss Event

(Advanced Play: Wins carried forward from main event)

Winner: (5 wins) J.O. Walters

Block C

6 wins: D.J. Goacher (4½) +101, P. Cordingley (-1) +29

5 wins: H.C. Green (2½) +9

3 wins: D.E. Wood (8) +3, T.J. Anderson (1½) +5

2 wins: M. Ansell (16) -21, J.M.K. Bevington (8) -38

1 win: Miss J. Assheton (4) -69

Block D

8 wins: N. Gale (4) +103

6 wins: B.A. Keen (½) +21

5 wins: A. Gregory (3½) +63

4 wins: A.G. Williams (9) +31, R.A. Welch (4) +21

3 wins: J.R. Hilditch (-½) -75, J.S. Maude (2½) -50

2 wins: J. Coutts (2) -35

1 win: G.F. Redman (16) -79

Publications from Headquarters

Laws & Regulations The full Laws of Association and Golf Croquet, and the Regulations for tournament play. Price: £2.00 (£2.00) P&P 17p

Basic Laws Gives all the Laws necessary for beginners. Price: 50p (£1.00) P&P 13p

Commentary on Laws by Col. Prichard. Explains and amplifies the Laws. Price: £1.00 (£2.00) P&P 50p

"Know the Game. Croquet" Straightforward guidance on how to play the game. Price: £1.00 (£1.25) P&P 24p

"Croquet" by John Solomon. Fully comprehensive book on all aspects of the game. Reprinted in 1983 by public demand. Price: £5.00 (£6.00) P&P £1.20

"History of Croquet" by Col. Prichard. A well illustrated, complete and interesting book on the history of the game. Price: £6.00 (£8.50) P&P £1.20

Twelve Hints for Beginners A useful booklet for beginners. Price: 60p (£1.00) P&P 13p

CA Directory (1986) Complete list of names and addresses of Associates and Registered Clubs. Free to all Registered Clubs. Extra copies supplied on request. Price: £3.00 (£25.00) P&P 40p

CA Fixtures Book (1986) Full details of all tournaments and events for the season. Free to all full Associates and Registered Clubs. Extra copies supplied on request. Price: £1.50 (£3.00) P&P 40p

Wrest Park: 20-22 September

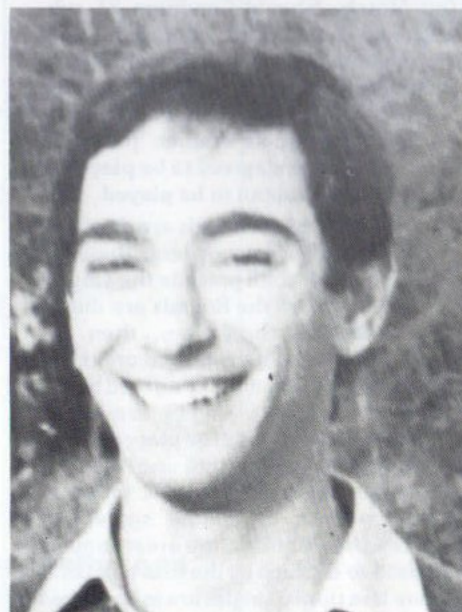
Wrest Park's September was notable for its unusually low rainfall and high stubble burning smoke cover, quite apart from the quality of the Croquet. The high flyers were undoubtedly Nigel Gale from Bristol and the resident ringer, Robert England. The west wind blew Nigel through to a clear 8 games victory in the largest block, while 'perfidious Albion' was deprived of a victory only by Howard Bottomley; losing two bishes - a total handicap reduction of 6 in 2 weeks.

Elsewhere on the lawns, Richard Hilditch marked his opponent's ball, recommenced play only to land another ball on the very same spot! Harry Green attempted to peg out one of David Wood's balls, but had forgotten that this ball had not passed Rover. Harry's ball, alas, rolled on to the peg and he promptly removed it before the error was discovered and John Wheeler restored order.

Had John Meads not been engaged in other activities this weekend, he might have saved Jonathan Wolfe from splitting John's spare mallet asunder. Later, Jonathan, with his own mallet, hit one of the more remarkable shots of the weekend; hitting a smidgeon sized target on the far side of 2-back from 1-back, after passing through 2-back without touching any wires. Sadly, it did not win him the game.

Some visitors to Wrest Park surprised the tournament contestants when Harlow and Welwyn Active Retired Group staged an alternative tournament on the Saturday.

ADRIAN WILLIAMS



One of the contestants at the Wrest Park weekend: Bowdon's Treasurer, Mike Sandler

Club Profile (1)

The Thomas Cook Croquet Club at Peterborough

By Adrian Kirby

Three years ago there was no organised croquet in Peterborough. Now there are two registered clubs - a public club, called 'Peterborough Croquet Club', formed in August 1985 at Werrington in north Peterborough, and a company club at Thomas Cook's headquarters west of the city, which dates back a little further...

A chance remark passing between **Adrian Kirby**, retired hurt from tennis tournaments, and **Keith Garrett**, soon to hang up his squash racket after many years of trouncing the younger players, led to the formation of an embryo croquet section by the Thomas Cook Sports & Social Club in late summer, 1982. The club bought a Jaques garden set (wire hoops, wooden balls, etc) and the two founder members started playing lunchtime games on an undulating corner of the playing field - quite handily placed for catching the passing trade between the office building and the clubhouse! **Adrian Kirby**, who had played a lot of back garden croquet as a boy (ancient rules) and some college lawn croquet at University (hybrid rules with strange local variations), proceeded to teach the interested few something approximating to the modern game after a quick visit to the local library to read the rules - a case of the partially sighted leading the blind! A lot of interest was generated at the end of the season when the cricket square was used for a challenge match between the **Garrett/Kirby** partnership and the two keenest recruits to the game, **Roger Green** and **Ian Strain**.

The Thomas Cook groundsman, **Jim Jutsum**, performed miracles during the off season, and croquet restarted in Spring 1983 on a much smoother surface, though the tricky gradients remain to this day. Thanks to a good deal of arm twisting - (the organiser is thinking of applying for accreditation as a Grade 1 Coach in wrestling) - 64 players took part in an Association Croquet knockout doubles tournament, on the strength of which the Club provided funds for iron hoops, Eclipse balls and Neal mallets the following year. As well as establishing a following at Thomas Cook, the section also established contact with the outside world in 1983, in the shape of **Tom** and **Judy Anderson** from Bedfordshire - real croquet players! Two friendly matches were played against the **Anderson's** club, Colworth, during which the Thomas Cook teams learned much of the basic tactical theory of the game. Colworth's ploy of including a Mr (**Laurie**) **Aspinall** in their side failed to disconcert the Thomas Cook players who were too new to the croquet scene to recognise the name.

Spurred on by **Judy Anderson**, 'Thomas Cook (Peterborough) Croquet Club' registered with the Association early in 1984, and entered a team in the Longman Cup. The Sports & Social Club has not yet seen fit to meet the section's request for two purpose-built lawns, and so the team resigned itself to playing all matches away. Thanks to a bye in Round 1 and a very narrow victory over



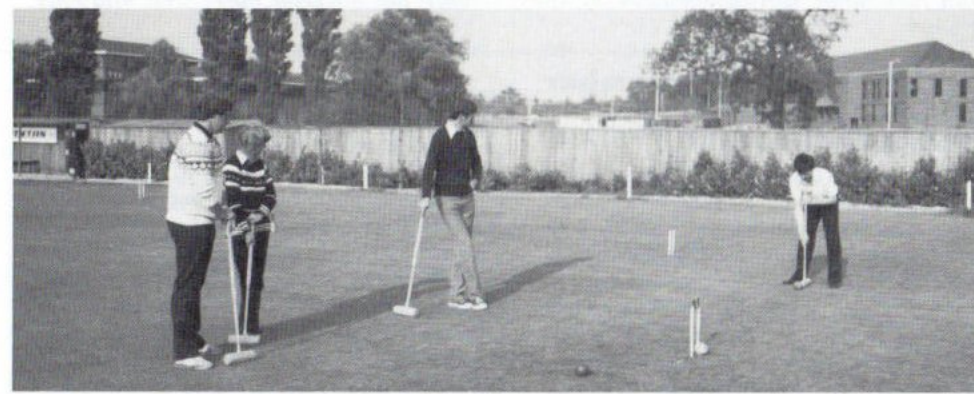
Players from Thomas Cook's pictured with members of the Guernsey Croquet Club after their match at Sausmarez Manor. Guernsey lost this home fixture, but learnt a thing or two for their next match against the Jersey Croquet Club! Peter de Sausmarez, Chairman of the Guernsey club, is fifth from left

Hunstanton in Round 2 - (plus 1 on games but minus 5 on aggregate points) - Thomas Cook reached Round 3, only to be knocked out by Bretby, the eventual winners, in a rather one-sided contest notable for no less than three 'practice peg-outs' in the same game by **Neil Richardson** while attempting take-offs to opponents on the opposite boundary. Meanwhile, back at base, the future of Association Croquet was considered to be sufficiently secure for it to be safe to introduce Golf Croquet - (for Croquet read 'Croquet' throughout, if that is your preference) - and this has gained several devotees, mainly on the grounds that the play is evenly divided among the players. It was during a Golf Croquet tournament game that **Steve King** demonstrated the possibilities of Thomas Cook's Einsteinian lawn by running hoop 2 from 10 yards south of corner 3!

Association Croquet and Golf Croquet tournaments were mounted again in 1985, and the level of participation seems to have settled down to about 16 for each, with some overlapping of course. **Adrian Kirby's** unbeaten record in internal competitions was finally ended, and **Roger Green** is the new Association Croquet champion. These two, together with **Ian Strain** and **Neil Richardson**, managed five victories in the

Longman Cup, and in doing so had the privilege of playing on some splendid lawns, including Hurlingham's a day or two before the start of the President's Cup. **Ian Strain** reluctantly had to miss the final, staged at Nottingham, on account of the imminent arrival of his baby daughter - very poor family planning, this! **Roger Coates** proved an able substitute but the rest of the team had an off-day and Thomas Cook were beaten (3-1, with 1 abandoned) by a resourceful Tyneside team who seemed to adapt better to the water-logged conditions developing after lunch. After this disappointment, it was nice to be able to end the season on a high note, with a party of 9, plus 2 infants, visiting Guernsey Croquet Club for two and a half days of glorious weather, intriguing croquet - (the oval main lawn made hiding in the corner somewhat difficult!) - and generous hospitality.

Future development of the Thomas Cook club depends on getting a second lawn and finding enough people who are willing to be more than just lunchtime players. Local fixtures against the new Peterborough Croquet Club should provide a new impetus, and another successful run in the Longman Cup would help too - who knows, perhaps the team will go one better than last time and bring home the trophy in 1986!



Lunchtime croquet in progress at Thomas Cook's in Peterborough. (Left to right): Ollie Schick, Sheila Breeds, Adrian Kirby, and Mervyn Ward.

Tournament Reports & Results (2)

Selector's Weekend	MPC	BAK	MK	MF	WS	JM	AM	AJC	JMc	GR	Wins	Net Points	Final Order
Mrs MP Colin		+5	+22	-4	+17	+10	+9	-22	-15	+15	6	+37	1
BA Keen	-5		+6	-4	+8	+3	+7	-13	+24	+6	6	+32	2
M Kolbuszewski	-22	-6		+19	-7	+25	+3	-4	+19	+14	5	+41	3
M French	+4	+4	-19		+22	-25	-4	+2	-4	+16	5	-4	4
W Spalding	-17	-8	+7	-22		+5	-4	+16	+2	+5	5	-16	5
J Mann	-10	-3	-25	+25	-5		+7	-5	+12	+9	4	+5	6
A Mrozinski	-9	-7	-3	+4	+4	-7		+4	-7	+24	4	+3	7
AJ Collin	+22	+13	+4	-2	-16	+5	-4		-17	-12	4	-7	8
Miss J MacLeod	+15	-24	-19	+4	-2	-12	+7	+17		-15	4	-29	9
G Roy	-15	-6	-14	-16	-5	-9	-24	+12	+15		2	-62	10

* = Straight Triple Peel

Harrow Oak: 6-8 September THE SELECTORS' WEEKEND

A new idea came to fruition on the Harrow lawns in September - a motley crew of potential aspirants to the 'Eights' were invited by the Selectors to confound those who had failed to realise their true potential by brilliant play in a weekend event.

As things turned out, no reputations were seriously impaired or significantly enhanced

during play which apparently confirmed my impressions of those involved. At the risk of losing some friends, I shall hazard a few comments, listing players in the final order of merit.

Mary Collin (6 wins) - A very difficult opponent, who does not often fail to capitalise on an opportunity.

Barry Keen (6 wins) - A touch player when relaxed, adopts a more aggressive approach when under pressure and still contrives



Barry Keen congratulates Mary Collin on her win

controlled hoop running with angled jump shots - very frustrating!

Martin French (5 wins) - A quixotic player - gains and loses the innings regularly so that one cannot relax.

Bill Spalding (5 wins) - Good under pressure. Much practice at this since adept at setting up breaks for opponents.

Martin Kolbuszewski (5 wins) - A good steady player, always on the lookout for the opportunity to play 'advanced' croquet.

John Mann (4 wins) - Unbelievable nerve and will usually attempt the impossible, often succeeding.

Jan MacLeod (4 wins) - Good tactician (well taught?) and plays tidy, controlled breaks. Sometimes too ambitious.

Andrew Collin (4 wins) - A neat and stylish player capable of play of the highest quality.

Tony Mrozinski (4 wins) - A very attacking player who won and lost all but one game by narrow margins. Lost the Polish National Open final by 3.

Geoff Roy (2 wins) - The only player to complete a triple (STP), his games were characterised by narrow misses and peeling attempts at every opportunity.

The weather for the weekend was superb and the grass was of excellent quality, especially after the 'summer' weather. The lawns were generally true as evidenced by the high standard of shooting throughout, although some of the boundaries and hoop approaches were 'interesting'.

Martin, as the local representative, looked after us very well with coffee and biscuits and a pleasant meal was enjoyed on the Saturday evening. The weekend was good value with 9 games in three days and the experiment of holding this type of event should certainly be repeated.

BILL SPALDING



The players in the Selectors' Weekend. (L to R): Geoff Roy, Bill Spalding, Andrew Collin, Mary Collin, John Mann, Martin Kolbuszewski, Martin French, Jan MacLeod, Barry Keen, and Tony Mrozinski

Wrest Park: 28-29 September THE ALL-ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Eight winners of regional finals met at Wrest Park in the two-day final of the All England Handicap. This was the first time that the final of this nationwide competition had been held at Silsoe. The East Anglian representative was Robert England, a member of Wrest Park Croquet Club, who had convincingly beaten all others at Colchester in the area final. Terry Greenwood, from the Midlands, however, soon showed him that an ability to rush a ball straight and a carefree attitude to running

hoops can pay dividends. Although Robert won his next two games, the eventual winner ended his chances on Sunday morning.

Ken Hawkes, from Bristol, looked the likely winner early on, with two very quick wins. This gave him the chance for spot of sunbathing before playing what effectively became the deciding match, on Saturday evening against Andrew Sedcole from London. Andrew had struggle to win his first match and came back from the dead to win his second game, against Terry Greenwood, and convincingly outplayed Ken Hawkes (Ken's only defeat in the weekend).

Sunday's games turned out to be surprisingly predictable, with the result decided before the final round of matches was played. Andrew Sedcole was the clear winner, with Ken Hawkes second.

ERIC AUDSLEY
RESULTS

**All-England Handicap Championship
Played as a Swiss Block**

5 wins: A. Sedcole (8) +30; K. Hawkes (11) +70
4 wins: T.P. Greenwood (5½) +39

3 wins: P. Robson (9) +1; R. England (10) -2

2 wins: J. Prior (6) -9

1 win: G. Noble (0) -56

Ladies' Invitation Events

Ladies' Field Cup 1985	SW	JNR	FHN	PEP	JA	CB	Games Won			Final Order
							1st Series	2nd Series	Total	
Mrs WRD Wiggins		+13 +23	+15 +20	+13 +16	+22 +10	+18 +26	5	5	10	1
Mrs J Neville Rolfe	-13 -23		-7 +17	+5 +17	-26 +2	+9 +12	2	4	6	2
Mrs FH Newman	-15 -20	+7 -17		-12 +12	+10 +9	-12 -10	2	2	4	=3
Miss PE Parker	-13 -16	-5 -17	+12 -12		+2 +2	+7 -11	3	1	4	=3
Mrs J Anderson	-22 -10	+26 -2	-10 -9	-2 -2		+3 +7	2	1	3	=5
Lady Bazley	-18 -26	-9 -12	+12 +10	-7 +11	-3 -7		1	2	3	=5

Southwick: 16-20 September THE LADIES' SIXES

Mini-Saga

Wars of the Roses

Contestants:

Red Roses: Judy Anderson, Carmen Bazley, Margaret Newman, Jane Neville-Rolfe, Pat Parker, Susan Wiggins

White Roses: Hyacinth Coombs, Bo Harris, Chris Irwin, Pat Macdonald, Francis Ransom, Kay Yeoman

Monday: Assembly and briefing. Battles commenced. Some losses in both camps. Regrouped for tomorrow.

Tuesday: Strengthening positions. Leaders emerging. Double peel, Susan Wiggins. Only casualty, one walking wounded, Carmen Bazley, from bicycle crash. Some heavy losses and unusual tactics.

Wednesday: End of first round. Clear leaders. Reds, Susan Wiggins; Whites, Bo Harris. Each with 5 wins.

Thursday: Infiltration by several husbands, but no fraternization allowed on battlefield. Slow progress by some contestants necessitates pegging down. Canteen excellent, field kitchen supplying hot soup and coffee. Some close encounters of the third kind.

Friday: End of contest. Winners of Reds, Susan Wiggins; runner-up, Jane Neville-Rolfe. Whites, Bo Harris; runner-up, Pat Macdonald. Long range photography by special correspondent. Carmen Bazley ensures permanent record. Special recommendation and mention in despatches to Pat Shine for excellent generalship. All sorry that Jan MacLeod had to withdraw, due to serious illness of her mother. She was much missed.

JANE NEVILLE-ROLFE



Chris Irwin, selected to play in the Longman Bowl

PROFILE

Miss 'D.D.' Steel

Miss Dorothy Dyne Steel was never known by her Christian name, but always by her initials 'D.D.' Between the wars, she won the Women's Championship fifteen times and on several occasions when she did not win she was not competing; she was Open Champion four times and made the Champion Cup her own property by her fourth win in 1934; when Trevor Williams presented the President's Cup in its place, she promptly won this too. She represented England in three test series and her other achievements are too many to enumerate.

It is difficult to define by what skills of hand and brain this remarkable record was achieved, for D.D. was not a showy or inventive player, nor was her play without certain weaknesses. For one thing, she was not a particularly good hooper. Well aware of this, she would put her pilot ball to the side of the hoop, thus minimising the risk of being hoop-bound. This she could well afford to do since her split shots were so accurate that she could dispense with a forward rush. Perhaps her success was partly due to a dominant temperament; she would never allow her opponents to suppose that they could hope to beat her. This was not merely a psychological gambit; she had intense determination and never played better than in a crisis. Another characteristic was the perfect rhythm of her breaks. She moved with mechanical precision at an absolutely even pace from the beginning to the end of her turn; there was never any acceleration or slackening off of the tempo. The effect was almost hypnotic. She trod the lawn with a springy step on the balls of her feet as the queen of the game which she knew herself to be; resolute, even a little grim, but



Miss Lily Gower - Lady Champion of England 1899, 1900, and 1901. She won the title again in 1928, as Mrs R.C.J. Beaton.

the mistress of her art. There have been more exciting players but none more effective.

After the Second War her hands became increasingly crippled with arthritis and she was but a shadow of her former self. In her new role of manager she was no less dominant off the court than she had been on it. She was a good horsewoman and hunted regularly throughout the winter. She died in January 1965, aged eighty. With Miss N.S.L. Gilchrist (her great rival during the 1920s) and Mrs Beaton, she must rank as one of the three greatest lady players ever.

Extract and other information from Col. Prichard's 'The History of Croquet' - a most interesting and enjoyable book, available from the CA Office. Price £7.20 to members (£9.70 to non-members), inclusive of P&P.

Ladies' Longman Bowl 1985	GDH	IPMM	KEY	CEI	FR	LAC	Games Won			Final Order
							1st Series	2nd Series	Total	
Mrs G.D. Harris		+20 +4	+22 +13	+21 +21	+17 +4	+12 +9	5	5	10	1
Mrs IPM MacDonald	-20 -4		+7 +5	+10 +15	+13 +7	+7 +15	4	4	8	2
Mrs KE Yeoman	-22 -13	-7 -5		-1 +2	-9 +5	+18 +21	1	3	4	3
Mrs CE Irwin	-21 -21	-10 -15	+1 -2		+2 -2	+8 -14	3	0	3	=4
Mrs F Ransom	-17 -4	-13 -7	+9 -5	-2 +2		+8 -6	2	1	3	=4
Mrs LA Coombs	-12 -9	-7 -15	-18 -21	-8 +14	-8 +6		0	2	2	6

Regional News

YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE New Clubs

Yorkshire has until recently been rather a croquet desert, with the East Riding Club as the only oasis.

However, there is now a new club at Beverley and the members there are currently negotiating with the Borough Council for the use of a site at a local recreation ground. This has space for two or three short croquet courts. The club has some 35 members, mainly Rotarians or members of Probus, an organisation for retired business people. Some of them have already played croquet at the East Riding Club.

Other sites for demonstrations and coaching in the Region have been found at Harrogate, York and Ripon. In Harrogate, there are some 30 people who would like to start a club based at the Cairn Hotel, having played in competitions there last year. The lawns at the Hotel have been improved since last summer, the work being funded by the Croquet Association and the Cairn Hotel, with the help of a Grant from the Harrogate Borough Council.

In York, a lawn at the University will be used for a beginners' course, to be held on a suitable evening during the summer term, and a similar course is planned later in the season, either at the University out of term or at the Oaklands Sports Centre.

At Ripon, if coaching resources permit, it is hoped to put on a beginners' course at the Teacher Training College, and as with the other sites mentioned above, we would hope to raise enough interest there to form a club during the course of next season.

East Riding Croquet Club

The East Riding Club itself intends to hold an evening 5-week coaching course for beginners, following a recruitment campaign early in the season. If there is sufficient demand, the course will be doubled up or repeated later in the season.

The Club is hoping to hold a coaching course for pupils of local schools on Saturday mornings. Arrangements are also being made to coach students at Hull University.

Course for Coaches

In order to spread the coaching load in the Region, a Grade I Coaching Seminar will be held in April at the East Riding Club for those who would like to qualify as Grade I Coaches. Anyone who would like to become a Coach should contact Bill Lamb (0482-848649).



Cheltenham: 11-13 October The End of the Line

The notable features of the tournament itself were the relatively low handicap average of 4.33, the small range of just 10.5, and the fact that in one block the longest handicapped contest was 6 v 7. No-one managed a 100% record, but our thanks to Ian Maugham who managed everything else.

Commiserations must go, not to the thirty players who did not win blocks, but to the twenty or so queued on the waiting list; while so often the last tournament of the season leaves us cold and damp and feeling that we have stayed too long, this was not so in October '85.

The weather, as if to show it had never really meant any harm, behaved in a manner that would have brought it credit on many a mid-season day. The effect was to heighten the sense of finality which the last calendar event of the year inevitably exudes. This time, though, it seemed accentuated by so many things. The sight of the Clubhouse standing isolated before three closed courts, equipment lifted, like an abandoned platform on a once busy station now itself awaiting closure; the official notice announcing that managerial matters were being handled in the Bridge Room, it too bearing evidence of demolition work; and everywhere thousands of small black spiders, floating gently on their shining webs, as if ready to engulf everything the moment the last mallet had been put away and the gates locked.

LAURENCE LATHAM

RESULTS

(Handicap Play)

Block A

5 wins: D. Croker (-1/2)
4 wins: R. Adlard (3) +38, T. Anderson (1 1/2) +26
3 wins: F.A. Rowlands (4 1/2) +4, Mrs P. Hague (4) +11
1 win: Mrs V. Tompkinson (7 1/2) -76, Mrs K. Whittall (10) -38

Block B

5 wins: L. Latham (1/2) +33, F.I. Maugham (2) +50
4 wins: Mrs I. Moorcraft (10)
3 wins: D. Willetts (5)
2 wins: Dr R. Wheeler (4) -61, Mrs A. Croker (5 1/2) +5
0 wins: F. Newman (3)

Block C

5 wins: P.L. Smith (1/2)
4 wins: P. Watson (5 1/2) +3, D. Laney (2 1/2) +23
3 wins: Mrs J. Anderson (4 1/2) +7, Mrs G.D. Harris -2

2 wins: Mrs E. Weitz (4)

0 wins: Mrs M. Langley (8)

Block D

5 wins: M. Tompkinson (2 1/2) +42, D.H. Moorcraft (1/2) +47
4 wins: Mrs M. Newman (4) +23, Mrs B. Sutcliffe (7) -9

1 win: Mrs D. Latham (6) -17, J. Exell (5 1/2) -36, Mrs K. Yeoman (5) -50

Block E

5 wins: Mrs D.A. Wheeler (4)
4 wins: K.J. Carter (6) +14, D. Gaunt (1 1/2) +40
3 wins: R. Burnell (3 1/2) +23, A.F. Sutcliffe (2 1/2) -10
1 win: Mrs S. Willetts (7 1/2) -46, Mrs E.A. Neal (6) -72

David Croker: Block winner at Cheltenham

Tournament Reports & Results (3)

SOUTHWICK: 13-15 September

RESULTS

(Handicap Play)

Block A:

6 wins: Dr D.G. Higgs
5 wins: D.H. Moorcraft
4 wins: W.E. Moore
3 wins: W.E. Philp
1 win: Mrs R. Stanley-Smith -29, Miss M.J. Loveys -49, Mrs L.A. Coombs -62

Block B

6 wins: B.G.F. Weitz
5 wins: D.M. Horne
3 wins: Miss P. Shine -2, Mrs M.E. Wharrad -10
2 wins: P. Emery +11, D.M. Bull -29
0 wins: Mrs A.E. Millns

Block C

6 wins: L. Wharrad
5 wins: N. Gale
2 wins: R.F. Hall -15, Mrs E.A. Mapletoft -20, F.A. Beard -22, Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe -30, Miss B. Dennant -33

Block D

5 wins: J. Haigh (Winner) +56, J.S.H. Battison +50
4 wins: J.J. Lawrence
3 wins: Mrs I. Moorcraft +11, Mrs E. Ross -9
1 win: P. Bishop
0 wins: Miss D. Harding

RYDE: 13-15 September

RESULTS

(Handicap Play)

Block A:

5 wins: H.G. Drake (2 1/2)
4 wins: N.M. Griffin (7 1/2) +42, R.W. Newnham (4 1/2) +33
3 wins: J.E. Jones (11) +10, A.V. Camroux (1) -34
2 wins: Mrs M.G. Tompkinson (7 1/2)
0 wins: Mrs D. Erith (14)

Block B

5 wins: D.L. Gaunt (1 1/2)
4 wins: J.P. Dawson (3) +43, G. Youd (11) +32, F.A. Rowlands (4 1/2) +12
3 wins: J.A. Short (5)
1 win: T.I. Card (5)
0 wins: E. Carleton (16)

Block C

5 wins: A.J. Oldham (9)
4 wins: H.B. Brownsdon (6 1/2) +61, C.B. Sanford (4 1/2) +14
3 wins: G.W.R. Goodwin (6) +23, M.G. Tompkinson (2 1/2) 0
2 wins: W.F. Casey (11)
0 wins: Mrs A.V. Camroux

Nottingham: 13-15 September

RESULTS

(Handicap Play)

Block A:

6 wins: E.J. Davis (1/2)
4 wins: K. Cotterell (2) +23, P. Trafford (5) +1
3 wins: L. Robinson (10)
2 wins: Mrs C. Chamberlain (12) 0, A.J. Bucknell (9) -46
0 wins: Dr R.F. Wheeler (4)

Block B

6 wins: Mrs R.F. Wheeler (4)
4 wins: S.J. Hare (1 1/2)
3 wins: A. Bobak (7) +18, M.R.L. Cowan (7) -10, P.J. Death (1/2) -19
2 wins: R. Davis (10)
0 wins: Mrs A.J. Bucknell (12)

Block C

6 wins: Dr F.L. Whittaker (7)
4 wins: B.G. Hallam (1 1/2)
3 wins: S. Titchener (14) +7, J.F.S. Thomas (9) -10
2 wins: Dr G.K. Taylor (1/2) -15, J.C. Straw (3 1/2) -19
1 win: Mrs K. Cotterell (4)

Tyneside Croquet Club

By Syd Jones

My wife and I used to play in the long grass of the local park. We attempted to play what we thought was Croquet with some antique mallets and wire hoops and, in our ignorance, enjoyed a very primitive version of the game, with 'foot-on-ball' shots and even two- or three-hoop breaks. But then enlightenment came from the then unknown headquarters of the South in the form of John Meads, who in November 1983 called a meeting in Gateshead to form Tyneside Croquet Club, that was to have a real lawn in Smith's Park, North Shields. The Club was born and Association Croquet had come to the North East.

By the start of our first season in 1984, we had fifteen over-enthusiastic members and our overwhelming problem since has been how can we all play on one lawn at the same time. On one occasion, in cold sleet, we had thirteen players drawing lots to play and even this last summer of cold wet weather has been just as busy! Some members have resorted to afternoon and even morning play just to get on the lawn. We have played almost every day from dawn to dusk and even later, but never too late to get down to our Club Local, the Wooden Doll.

We may not have the best players in the country, with average bisques of fifteen each, but twelve of our fifteen players have competed against other clubs, and we have won most of the matches too! Last year, 1985, was our first competitive season and we entered the Northern Federation League, the East Pennine League, and the Longman Cup. There didn't seem to be anything else available to us, or we would have tried for that too!



Tyneside players with the Longman Cup. Back (l to r): David Appleton, Alice Jones, Jack Shotton, and Steven Taggart. Front (l to r): Brian Thompson, Syd Jones, Jim Taggart and John Portwood

Our most spectacular achievement has obviously been winning the Longman Cup. The early local wins led to successful visits to Ellesmere and Edinburgh, a semi-final win against Wolverhampton, and then a wet final win at Nottingham against Thomas Cook of Peterborough. We had a difficult drive home in heavy traffic and rain, but all reached the Wooden Doll where the Manager filled the cup with Champagne at a wonderful celebration party.

Perhaps an even more substantial success was coming second in the Northern Federation League, our only defeat being at Chester in what must have been the worst day of the worst summer. Above all, we have enjoyed our visits to every club and equally enjoyed their visits to Smiths Park - we feel we've made many new friends this summer.

We also ended the season top of the newly formed East Pennine League, and were so inspired by this that we have commissioned the manufacture of a trophy for the League and may have interested a local Building Society in sponsorship.

We have organised a report of all our matches in the local newspapers, and photographs and reports of the Longman Cup win appeared in the Newcastle Journal and the Evening Chronicle. This publicity, together with regular discussion, has at last persuaded our local Council to start work on two new lawns at Churchill Playing Fields in Whitley Bay. These should be ready for play during next season, but even with two lawns, getting a game looks like being just as difficult because the publicity and new location looks like increasing membership by so many that the lawns will be as crowded as usual, but it's a lovely problem to have isn't it - too many

Club Profile (2)



Tyneside's 'Cock-a-boop' Trophy

players!

Two large local country houses, now turned hotels but having original croquet lawns, have each provided the venue for one-day tournament outings for the club. The surroundings, together with tailed waiters serving tea and coffee from silver pots, has created a wonderful atmosphere and we will expect these to become annual events like the end of season party and club dinner party.

In attempting to spread Croquet in the North East we have demonstrated and played at a Sports Club in Sunderland and played a game on a lawn at Newcastle University in the centre of the City. This event provided publicity for us and gave the impetus to get a Croquet Club underway at the University.

We are now in 'Croquet Hibernation' until the Spring and occupied with other things. My wife is learning Bridge and I'm trying to cure my 'croquet elbow' but we look forward eagerly to next season and we hope for even more success. We intend to develop a coaching scheme for our area, and we intend to do one better in the Northern Federation League. It seems that more of our members intend to get into the tournament scene to get more experience against other players on other lawns. We all expect to reach a higher standard and lower bisques, and there are even murmurs that we might win the Longman Cup again, as after all, the mantelpiece would look rather bare without it!

Poster Competition

The winner of the Poster Competition (Issue No. 182) was Mrs Debbie Latham, who receives a cheque for £5.00 and our congratulations!

"Know The Game" Booklet

This booklet has been completely revised. Copies of the new edition are available from the CA Office, price £1.24 to members (£1.50 to non-members), inclusive of p&p.

Your Letters (1)

New Club at Caterham

Dear Sir,
A new croquet club is starting in Queens Park, Caterham this year. The official opening is planned for 26 April. On the following Bank Holiday weekend and Monday, a number of coaching courses will be run covering the first 3 or 4 sessions in the 'Coaching Handbook'.

If any Associates are interested, would they please contact me (Tel: 01-668-6525, evenings). In particular, any official coaches who could spare a few hours on that weekend would be very much appreciated.

David Higgs
Old Coulsdon

Handicap Values

Dear Sir,
For some years now we have played the Cheltenham summer long Club handicap event in semi-seeded blocks with play-off for block winners and seconds. By semi-seeded I mean that the blocks are constructed by writing in the entrants in ascending order of handicap across the columns of the blocks, so that each block contains roughly the same wide spread of handicaps. This

method of play produces a striking consequence; almost every year those players with handicaps of scratch or thereabouts get themselves into the play-off. Somehow these people have an advantage over the others. I decided to investigate.

A good source of enquiry seemed to be our weekend tournaments. There are several of these annually, all played over three days, all played in semi-seeded blocks, though without play-offs. Matches in each weekend are numerous; 105 to 144 games involving 35 to 48 players with two games each; handicap range is wide, minus 1/2 to 12 or 13 usually, so there is a big spread of handicap encounters; all are played under the same lawn conditions. Though a majority of players are locals handicapped by the same committee, any bias here is offset, to some extent, by the fact that about a third of the company are not Cheltenham based and though some of these are members here, many belong to other clubs also and have been exposed to other handicappers.

I have looked at all those weekends played in the years 1982, 1983, 1984 and in 1985 up

to and including the August weekend, plus a Swiss similarly seeded but of five rounds: 17 events and 2008 matches. The results show a bias in favour of the lower bisquer; indeed only in the range 3 1/2 to 7 1/2 can it be said that 'if you win every other game your handicap is about right'. Details are given in the Appendix below.

The number of games considered for each handicap is probably insufficient to give a reliable score for each; besides the frequent presence of one player with a doubtful handicap may have a dominant effect. However if the results are grouped say around the handicaps 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 12, where the total of games seems substantial, a very clear pattern shows up, as shown in the Appendix Summary.

These changes in value will not be lost on handicappers I feel sure; especially in considering raising handicaps.

G.E.P. Jackson
Cheltenham

Notes: Only one appearance of a -2 and two of a -1 1/2. Entry to w/ends restricted to 15s and below. One 16 appeared in the 5-round Swiss.

Appendix

H'cap	Games played	Games won	% won
-2&			
-1 1/2	17	7	48%
-1	57	41	72%
-1/2	127	92	72%
0	92	56	54%
1/2	265	176	66%
1	127	82	65%
1 1/2	70	45	64%
2	131	76	53%
2 1/2	198	121	61%
3	281	166	59%
3 1/2	185	106	54%
4	422	209	50%
4 1/2	139	59	42%
5	182	83	45%
5 1/2	132	67	51%
6	138	85	61%
6 1/2	137	52	38%
7	255	130	51%
7 1/2	111	58	52%
8	137	58	42%
9	183	79	38%
10	152	52	34%
11	167	31	19%
12	85	35	41%
13	112	35	31%
14	39	14	36%
15&	75	20	27%
16			

Summary

Group	H'cap	Games Played	Games Won	% Won
0	-2 + 1/2	558	372	67%
2	1-2 1/2	526	324	62%
4	3-4 1/2	1027	540	53%
6	5-6 1/2	589	287	49%
8	7-9	686	325	47%
12	10-15	630	187	30%

Snippets

Illness cut short **Cyril Pountney's** tournament play last season, but he has had some consolation during the past winter.

As Chairman of the 'Survivors Association' from the sinking of HMS Ark Royal 3 in 1941, he was able to borrow the wardroom of the new Ark Royal 5 for the Association's annual banquet last year. He was later presented to HM the Queen Mother at the commissioning of the new carrier on 1st November.



Cyril Pountney

Nicknamed 'Uncle' by the other pilots, his book about his experiences in the Fleet Air Arm

during the 1939-45 War will be published in April/May. Cyril is offering copies to members at a pre-publication price, and will be delighted to provide more details on request.

....

Determined to steal a march on other schools, **Ludlow College Croquet Club** have purchased a large carpet to enable them to play croquet indoors during winter lunchtimes, using snooker balls and small mallets.

....

South Shropshire's search for new lawns continues, but **Peter Dorke** reports that he is now more optimistic about obtaining a suitable site.

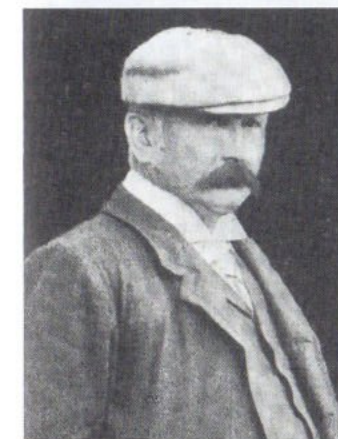
....

Readers of the Guardian will have noticed that **Conrad Black**, the new owner of the Daily Telegraph, is an avid croquet player who plays to English Rules. This started a discussion about which other people in the public eye were croquet players.

Amongst our own members, we have **Lady Barbirolli**, **MP Toby Jessel**, and many others who have attained eminence in their own particular fields. Others known or believed to be keen on

The 1872 Wimbledon Tournament

Near the village of Wimbledon, on the very brink of the railway that burries you thither and then bears off the rest of the passengers towards Southampton, Bombay, Jamaica, or wherever they may wish to go, are four acres of grassy land. These acres are laid out in three terraces, the one above the other, and on each terrace are four croquet-grounds. Amongst these (the



Walter Peel, Open Champion 1868, 1870 and 1871. He lost the final of the 1872 Championship, described here, to Mr C. Black

corners being cut off to make way for them) are sundry edifices, half haystack, half summer-house; but in a sleety wind or a blazing sun you will not in any way regret that the principle of beauty has been sacrificed to the consideration of utility. If ugly, these buildings are very commodious. A gay striped marquee, and a pavilion, with a 'bar' of ecclesiastical woodwork, complete the accommodation. I must mention, however, a dozen and a half gigantic white umbrellas stuck up on long poles all over the ground; these umbrellas have a tendency to collect together round any important match.

From a croquet point of view, these grounds are simple perfection. Each is forty yards by thirty, and shaved, I verily believe, every morning by some of Mr Truefitt's assistants, sent down on purpose. They are beautifully levelled, and the yellows and pinks and blues of the rolling balls are resplendent in the sunshine. Croquet in the eyes of experts is not a mania, nor the imbecility of first or second childhood. It is a very

Snippets

the game are **Sir Michael Tippett**, **Magnus Pike**, **Roy Hattersley**, who wrote an article in 'Punch' some years ago about the pleasure he had from playing croquet, and **Carla Lane**, the author of several TV series, including the 'Liver Birds' and 'Butterflies'.

Roy Jenkins, **Norris McWhirter**, **Patrick Moore**, **Jimmy Greaves**, **Ted Dexter**, and **Brian Johnstone**, the cricket commentator, are also believed to enjoy the occasional game of croquet.

....

Nailsea launched an 'Improvement Fund' last December to help pay for work on their lawns, and within a month they had raised over £1000. £500 came from a raffle and the remainder from other fund raising events. A good example to the rest of us!

....

Mark Avery, a member of the **Ipswich Croquet Club**, was nominated for the Evening Star's 'Amateur Sports Personality of the Year' award as a result of his selection for our MacRobertson Shield team.

At a ceremony at the Ipswich Corn Exchange, he was presented with an engraved goblet

and 'Highly Commended' in this prestigious class, coming second to John Rednall, the winner of the recent British Bowls Championships.

....

I have just received a copy of **Tyneside's Club** magazine. Full of enthusiasm, local gossip and earthy detail, it's well worth trying to obtain a copy. **Alice Jones** won their 'Cock-a-hoop' Trophy, awarded not to the most improved player, but to the one who **thinks** he or she has improved the most.

The club's two new lawns are now under construction in Churchill Playing Fields, and they should be in use by the end of the coming season.

....

Pat Shine reports that a very worthwhile experiment for the social side of a Croquet Club has been tried out by **Worthing** this winter. Once a month, October-March, they meet at a local pub for drinks, lunch and coffee (11.30 - 2pm). This event has proved most popular, between 35-40 of their 50 members attending each time. Now social friendships have been formed, and various winter plays are being enjoyed together.

Early Days



Bernard Neal and David Godfree playing croquet at the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, Wimbledon, with the Centre Court stand in the background.

David's mother, Kitty Godfree, was Wimbledon Ladies Champion in 1924, when as Miss McKane she beat the legendary Helen Wills, and she won the title again in 1926

fascinating and very difficult game, requiring nerve, judgment, unremitting attention, and great physical nicety. Judging from its effects on several lady and gentlemen enthusiasts, I think we may almost say already that it is the most absorbing game yet invented; and I can conceive some such enthusiasts imagining in their dreams some such croquet haven as the Wimbledon ground in the dim cloudland of the hereafter.

'Early on Tuesday certain strange mallets, with their owners, were collected together at the Waterloo Station - flat mallets, cylindrical mallets, heavy mallets, light mallets - and soon the Wimbledon croquet-ground began to fill. The prize for the lady champion is a challenge silver-gilt tete-a-tete service, handsome and massive. It is valued at twenty guineas, and must be won three years running to entitle the winner to retain it. The champion's prize is a cup valued at fifty guineas, and this disproportion in the matter of the sexes is due, not to the fact that a male croquet champion is considered a more valuable object than a female croquet champion, but to the fact that the gentlemen entries (from which the prize money is chiefly drawn) are more numerous than the entries of the ladies. Mrs Walsh was the lady champion last year; Mr Peel was the gentleman champion. The champions remain calm and quiescent whilst the all-comers are contesting for the victory, and then play the conqueror...

1900. Little was it realised in 1872 that by the early 1900's croquet was to be all but ousted from Wimbledon by lawn tennis, although it was not until 1877 that the first lawn tennis championship was held there.

One may ponder how croquet tournaments have changed since those early days. Of course the wearing apparel is one major difference (ankle-length dresses for the ladies, with some astonishing hats! Dark suits for the men, sometimes with jacket removed, with bowler hat, or boater). The laws were then very different, not least because it was the sequence game, with a different court setting and 4-inch hoops. (Only two years earlier the hoops were 6 inches wide!). The tournaments must have been somewhat boring for the champions if remaining 'calm and quiescent' meant not playing at all until everyone else except one had been knocked out. Many clubs today have sundry edifices that provide shelter from 'sleety wind or a blazing sun' although they no longer have thatched roofs, and I have yet to visit a club with a bar having a front employing designs associated with church woodwork.

Although different in many respects, the game today has this in common. It is still, for most of us at least, a 'very fascinating and very difficult game, requiring nerve, judgment, unremitting attention, and great physical nicety.'

ALLEN PARKER

This quaint description appeared in the account of an early croquet tournament held in 1872 at Wimbledon at the All England Croquet Club, and is quoted by Arthur Lillie in his book entitled 'Croquet up to date', published in

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Committee Notes

Working with the Press

Extracts from the CCPR booklet
'You and the Press'

Introduction

All sporting organisations, whatever their size, should be aware of the valuable support that they can get from the media in assisting their efforts to promote and publicise their work and achievements. However, it is not enough to expect that this support will be forthcoming without the association or club concerned making an effort to promote an awareness of its work and activities.

Whether at national or local level people need to be reminded of the existence and work of your organisation throughout the year and not just when you have a major competition to promote. It is essential therefore to establish good contacts with the media at all levels to create a climate of cooperation and interest in what you are trying to achieve for your sport.

The aim of this booklet therefore is to provide guidelines as to how you can improve and expand your contacts with the media.

Whom should I approach?

Despite the advent and advance of local radio and television and the development of many types of media outlet, the Press still remains the largest and broadest means of communication, particularly with regard to local affairs. It is probably correct to say that the written word makes a more lasting impression than a visual image or the spoken word, and has the advantage that it can not only be read again but also can be read at any time; you do not have to reach your target audience at a particular time on a set day.

It is up to each Press Officer to look at the local and national papers in order to ascertain what opportunities are there for a public relations initiative.

Local Press

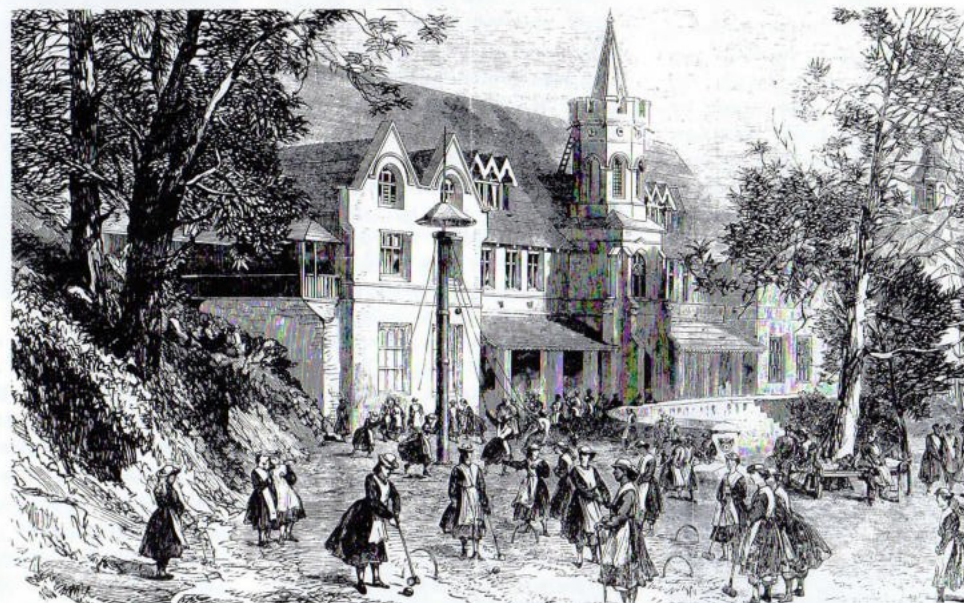
These consist of the dailies (morning and evening) and the weeklies including the growing number of free sheets and the 'What's On' kind of local guides. These are one of your most important links with the public. The evening papers have a very local distribution and a more popular coverage than the mornings, which tend to circulate over wider regions. The weeklies are intensely local and can find space for every kind of news, but often have less scope for features. All papers are not necessarily equally valuable and it may therefore be necessary to discriminate between them. Concentrate on the ones you find most influential and helpful from the point of view of your sport.

It is worthwhile remembering that many counties now have county prestige magazines and these should prove useful areas for special features and news items on your association and its work.

The way the Press works

In order to make the best use of the Press it is necessary to understand the way in which newspapers and magazines are organised. In a daily newspaper, and the larger weeklies, news and features are separately organised under news and features editors. If you have news to communicate on the telephone then you should ask for the 'News Desk'. If your

100 YEARS AGO



from The Illustrated London News, January 12 1867

Girls play croquet at the Lawrence Military Asylum near Simla where children of British soldiers in India would benefit from a 'plain, useful and religious education.' Situated at the foot of the Himalayas, the institution harboured 500 children from 'the debilitating effects of the Indian climate.' The Lawrence coeducational boarding school is still in existence.

news is of interest, you will be put on to a reporter, who will get your story and possibly arrange to see you to follow up the story. If your story has already been written out then you may be transferred to a typist to whom you can dictate the article. Your communication with the weeklies is more likely to be by letter or personal contact. Although News and Features are separated the same person may work for both.

You should get to know the Press days and times of local newspapers, remembering that the earlier copy arrives the better its chance of getting in. News can only be planned ahead to a limited extent. Features do try to be topical, but to a much greater extent are planned in advance. The editor controls policy, but often likes to give scope to his news and features editors. They in turn depend greatly on the initiative and ability of their reporters and feature writers. If you have a 'gossip' item then the best way to get it printed is to speak to the person who writes the column.

Approaching the Press

Never be afraid to approach the Press, which lives by making and developing contacts and improving its sources. You are, or should be, a valuable source. It is in the interests of the Press to get to know you, and you in your turn, must get to know the Press as well as you can. Remember, however, that your value to the Press is solely the fact that you are a source of news, ideas, personal contacts, information and feature articles. You should be on good terms with the editor or editors of the principal local newspaper or newspapers. If you do not know him then do not hesitate to go and see him or invite him to come and meet you.

However, only go when you have a positive reason to see him, i.e. when you have something to tell him, to propose or to ask in order to show him that you and the members of your association are people he cannot afford

not to know. At the same time do not be put off by an initial failure. You must be persistent, offering as good a service as you can, until confidence is won.

Copies of 'You and the Press' can be obtained from the CA Office. (Please enclose an A5 stamped addressed envelope). Amongst other topics, the booklet also deals with Press agencies; writing copy; photographs; Press releases; dealing with results; specialist magazines; and TV and radio appearances.

Coaching Aids available from Headquarters

CA Coaching Handbook

As well as giving suggested coaching programmes for players at all levels, this 50-page booklet covers recruitment, practice routines; tips for improving play, and the rules of alternative croquet games. A mine of information, gleaned from many players and clubs over the years and a "must" for club coaches. Price: £5.00 (£7.50) P&P 75p.

Coaching Film Strips

Seven coaching film strips and commentary available together on one Video film (VHS or Beta), complete with book containing details of each slide and commentary. Total running time approx. 105 minutes. Price: £20.00 (includes film, book, and P&P). Please indicate type of film required when ordering.

NCF Coaching Booklets

Booklet 1 "The Coach in Action"
Booklet 2 "The Body in Action"
Booklet 3 "Safety & Injury"
Booklet 4 "Improving Techniques"
Booklet 5 "Mind Over Matter"
Booklet 6 "Planning & Practice"
Price £1.00 (£1.50) P&P 35p per booklet.

Video Films

Various video films on croquet are available on loan. Details on request.

Information Wanted

Dear Sir,
Steve Mulliner and I are currently writing a new book on Croquet which will be published in 1987.

We would like to hear from Associates who could offer us information on the following points:

1. Croquet being played in Countries **other than** Britain, Ireland, USA, Canada, Bermuda, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Photographs of Clubs outside those countries would be most welcome. We are aware of croquet being played in Spain, Sweden and Switzerland but would welcome further information on Croquet in those countries, other than what has been printed in modern Gazettes.

2. How Croquet spread from Britain and Ireland to other parts of the World.

3. Extraordinary events that have occurred in Croquet matches, be they tournament matches or friendlies.

If you have any interesting photographs (preferably black and white) that you feel would enhance a new book on Croquet we would be glad to see them.

In order to leave time for further investigation of material submitted prior to our October deadline, we would ask that all replies reach us no later than 10th July.

John McCullough
Bristol

Page 3 Query

Dear Sir,
The November issue of 'Croquet' has just reached me. You may well ask which club the girls on the cover belong to. What I am asking myself, though - in the light of the dramatic changes now taking place in the croquet world - is what pictures you will be exposing readers to on Page 3 of future issues.

Roy Hudson
Chiang Mai, Thailand

Data Protection Act

Dear Sir,
The membership records of the Nottingham Club are kept on a computer, which brings them within the scope of the 1984 Data Protection Act. I draw this to your attention in case other clubs, individuals, or the Association itself are also affected.

As a layman in legal matters, my understanding is that the club is covered by the exemption given in paragraph 33(2)(a) for 'personal data held by an unincorporated members' club and relating only to members of the club', providing that the members are asked and do not object to the information being held and disclosed for club purposes. If so, the club is relieved of the requirement to register and of certain other provisions of the Act.

It is less clear whether the use of computers in connection with tournaments is covered. For example, I intend to prepare copies of the draw for our annual tournament and computer based handicap lists circulate from time to time. In our case, tournament players are deemed to be temporary members of the club, so the exemption should still apply if suitable rubric were added to the

Your Letters (2)

TPO is a bad thing. I am sure that Leslie has not made this mistake, but I cannot say the same for everyone else. In order to arrive at a balanced judgment of the value of the TPO it is necessary to decide on probability values for, eg.

1. Completing a TPO and then winning the game
2. Failing a TPO and then winning the game.
3. Completing a break to 4-back and then winning the game.
4. Failing a break to 4-back and then winning the game.

In order to do this, the two games mentioned above can be used, along with as many others as available, to arrive at an empirical result. In my view, they are 'evidence' for this purpose alone.

Secondly, I should like to present the case for the TPO on the basis of the probability values mentioned above. Let me remind you of the scenario. Your opponent has gone round to 4-back (the other three balls being for hoop 1) and you have then hit the lift shot and set up a break. You are now in play after running hoop 2 and have a choice between attempting a TPO or simply proceeding to 4-back. I am only concerned with the advisability or otherwise of attempting a standard TPO, ie the first peel being made before you make hoop 4.

We are concerned with the values of P and Q where:

- P = Probability of winning the game by attempting a TPO.
Q = Probability of winning the game by attempting a break to 4-back.

For this purpose we need to know:

- a = Probability of completing a TPO.
b = Probability of completing a break to 4-back.
c = Probability of winning after completing a TPO.
d = Probability of winning after completing a break to 4-back.
e = Probability of winning after failing a TPO.
f = Probability of winning after failing a break to 4-back.

Then,

$$P = ac + (1-a)e$$

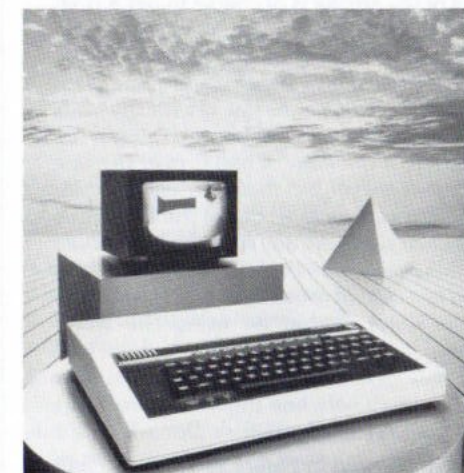
$$Q = bd + (1-b)f$$

Of course I cannot begin to put definitive values on a b c d e or f since they depend on many variables such as your own form, the opponent and the playing conditions. However I propose to give one set of values which I think is plausible. Remember that the game is being played between two good A-class players:

- a = 0.4 (ie 4 TPOs completed in every 10 attempts)
b = 0.9
c = 0.9 (ie only 1 game in 10 lost after successful TPO)
d = 0.5
e = 0.2
f = 0.3 (e and f are highly speculative, but intuitively $0 < e < f < d$)

Now work out P and Q. You may be surprised by the result. It's lucky that none of the above actually proves anything, isn't it?

Keith M.H. Aiton
Nottingham



Have we met all the requirements of the Data Protection Act?

tournament conditions (though presumably only for the duration of the tournament?!). Alternatively, could it be argued that the data was being held by the manager, record keeper, etc., as an individual 'for recreational purposes', in which case it would also be exempt?

The Laws of Croquet seem quite straightforward by comparison!

Ian Vincent
Nottingham

Waterproof Clothing

Dear Sir,
My thanks to those people that have given me advice on waterproof clothing which is condensation free.

Summing up the information, it would seem that the most suitable clothing is found in Camping and Outdoor type shops. Manufacturers include Berghaus, Northface, and Survival Aids. They use teflon manufactured by W.L. Gore of Kirton Cawpus, Scotland called GORE-TEX as a sandwich filling between two layers of material chosen for the activity intended, to which each gives their own trade name. The important part however is the Gore-tex which acts like a sieve, the mesh size of which is 9 BILLION pores per square inch. This allows water vapour molecules given off by the body to pass OUT but is too fine for water droplets (rain) to pass IN.

Spectacle wearers may find the type with a wired hood particularly useful.

Peter Bishop
Colchester

The TPO - A Rejoinder

Dear Sir,
I am grateful to Leslie Riggall for taking the trouble to reply (Issue 183) to my defence (Issue 181) of the TPO. I feel that I must write again on this subject in order to restate my case in another, and hopefully more convincing, form and also to try and counteract some of what I conceive to be muddled thinking about the TPO.

Firstly, there is the question of evidence. Leslie draws attention to two reported games in which I attempted a TPO, failed, and then lost the game. It would be incorrect to conclude from these results alone that the

Coaches Corner (1)

Cannons for Beginners

By Allen Parker (Parkstone)

Introduction

The title is intended to signify 'beginners in the use of cannons', and it is thus of interest to novices, many experienced high bisquers, and, I suspect, not a few middle bisquers. These readers are advised, before proceeding further, to refresh their memory by Reading Law No 19(b) under the heading 'Placing Balls for the Croquet Stroke'.

In his book entitled 'Modern Croquet Tactics' (Revised in 1912) C.D. Locock devotes a whole chapter of twenty pages to the subject of cannons, including 4-ball corner cannons and no less than sixteen 3-ball corner cannons. In my experience it is not necessary to learn more than three or four cannons to cover most situations, particularly as many opportunities for the use of a cannon arise elsewhere than in a corner. This is not to say that Locock was exaggerating the value of cannons. Most certainly not, and indeed his was an excellent book in other respects also.

Many players experienced in other departments of the game but not familiar with cannons are somewhat embarrassed or confused when they find themselves with three balls in contact on the yard line. On the other hand, the enthusiastic exponent of the cannon knows that a 3-ball cannon means a good rush to his hoop with a good chance of a 3-ball break, and that a 4-ball cannon, means an almost automatic 4-ball break.

1. The Banana Cannon

There is of course one cannon that most players learn to use quite early in their croquet career. This is the so-called Banana Cannon illustrated in Figure 1. Certainly there are occasions when this is the cannon to use, as we shall see, but more often than not it is better to employ the Wafer Cannon. Before going on to deal with the latter, it will be as well to say a few words about the placing of the balls for the banana cannon. In Figure 1 the ball marked S is the striker's ball, C is the ball from which he is taking croquet and the third ball is placed in contact with the croqueted ball so that the edge of the croqueted ball projects over the line joining the centres of the other

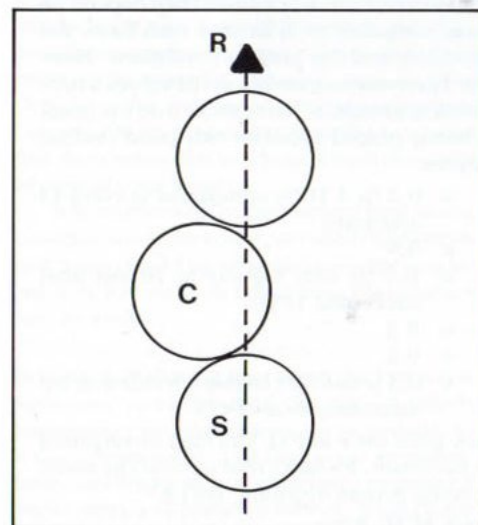


Fig 1: Banana Cannon

two balls (the dashed line in the figure). The object of the stroke is of course to get a rush on the third ball and this is achieved by aiming straight at the third ball and giving a gentle tap. The centre ball should fall to one side, leaving a rush along the line R with the balls about a foot apart. The important thing is the projection of the edge of ball C over the line R. If it does not project then on tricky ground, e.g. near a corner spot, one of the balls may roll back or sideways and spoil the rush. Even with this precaution the balls will sometimes roll off line on bad ground, and this is one (but not the only) reason for using the wafer cannon.

2. The Wafer Cannon

This is illustrated in Figure 2. The third ball is still placed on the rush line R, but now it is almost touching the striker's ball, the gap between the two being 'wafer thin', say one eighth of an inch. This gap can be varied to suit circumstances as you get more

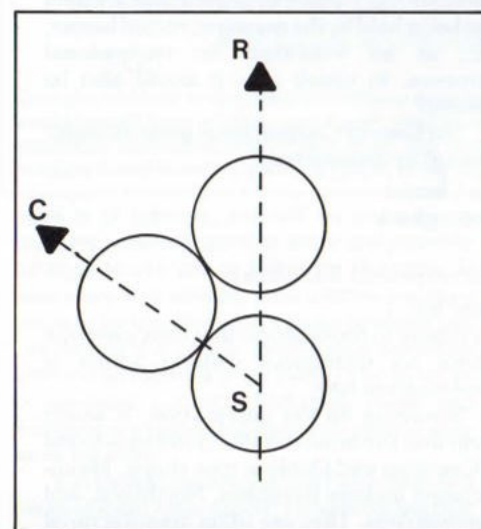


Fig 2: Wafer Cannon

experienced, but if a rush is all that is required then the gap should be kept as small as possible without the balls touching. They must both be in contact with the croqueted ball C, and some care is required in placing the balls, especially on rough ground. Now comes the execution of the stroke. Aim along the rush line R and treat it as a normal rush but with extra power because the croqueted ball C will also be moved some yards and this takes some of the sting out of the rush. First, the whole thing is done in one shot, so there is no question of balls rolling back and spoiling the rush. Second, the croqueted ball can be made to move a considerable distance: it can often be moved to a particularly advantageous position, but at the very least the wafer cannon gives an easy rush to the hoop AND gets the croqueted ball into court.

What are the disadvantages? The main problem is to ensure that the croqueted ball does not go off the boundary. Look at Figure 3. In the lower part of the figure a wafer cannon is used to rush a ball to hoop 3 and in the same shot to move the croqueted ball towards hoop 4, thus getting a 3-ball break. In the upper part of Figure 3 an attempt is being made to use a wafer cannon to rush a ball to hoop 6. Inevitably the croqueted ball will be driven over the boundary, and the turn will end. When the

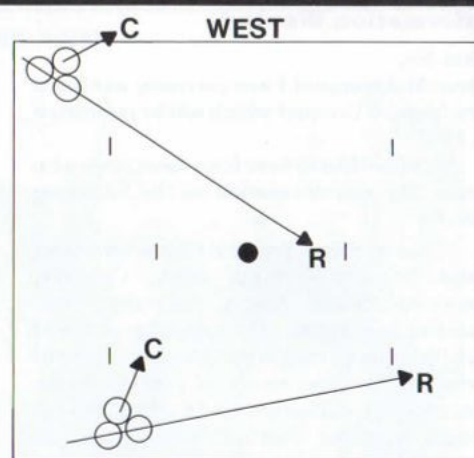


Fig 3: (Below) Right way, and (above) wrong way to use Wafer Cannon

balls are in or near a corner like this, it will be found impossible to get a rush diagonally out into court without the croqueted ball going off. To get the rush in this situation the BANANA cannon has to be used. Remember, in the wafer cannon the croqueted ball must NOT go over the boundary, but either of the other balls CAN, because they have been involved in a rush, albeit a rush performed in the same stroke as a croquet stroke.

Conclusion

You do not have to wait for a cannon to appear. You will find many opportunities for deliberately creating one. For example, when you take off to your opponent's balls joined on the boundary within a foot or so of one another, if your take-off is a good one, and you land within a couple of feet of the balls, don't be content just to roquet one of the balls, try to cut it behind the other ball so that it comes back on the yard line in contact, and you have a cannon. Another way of creating a cannon is when your opponent has placed a ball in a corner. If you lay a rush on that corner and your opponent leaves the ball there, you can rush your ball into the corner next turn, and you have your cannon.

As in all other aspects of the game, practice makes perfect, so if you have never played a wafer cannon before, try it out repeatedly in practice before using it in a game.

Courses for Grade I Coaches

The following courses have been arranged:

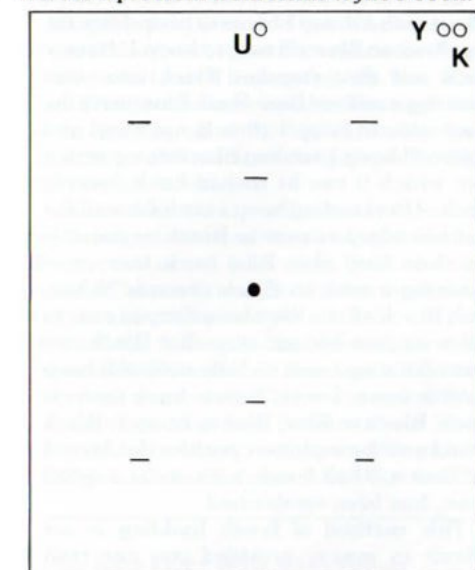
Date	Venue	Instructor
Sat 5 April	Birmingham	Ken Jones 021-453-2088
Sun 13 April	Budleigh	Peter Danks 039-54-2711
Sun 13 April	London area	Nigel Aspinall 093-22-22697
Sun 20 April	Yarm, Cleveland	John Davis 0642-701290

Any person who would like to attend one of these courses to qualify as a Grade I Coach in 1986 should contact the organiser for more details.

A Course Fee of £3.00 will be payable at the meeting. All meetings start at 2.00pm.

'Expert Croquet Tactics'

Here is a problem from Keith Wylie's book.



You are playing R (Red), and are taking croquet from K (Black) on the third corner spot. You have not yet had Y (Yellow) or U (Blue).

How do you set up a break in the following situations (six in all):

- you are for 4-back;
 - you are for 3;
 - you are for 2;
- where the gap between Y and K is (1) one yard; (2) nine inches?

Coaches Corner (2)

Not all of the courses are relevant to Croquet but the ones that are likely to be of interest are:

How skills are learned
Factors affecting performance
Mental preparation for competition
How to plan your programme
Effective coaching

If you would like further information, contact:

The National Coaching Foundation,
4 College Close,
Beckett Park,
Leeds, LS6 3QH. (0532-744802)

and ask them to send you a leaflet giving details of their 1986 Programme of Courses for Coaches in your Region.

Loughborough Summer School 11th-15th August 1986

Qualifying Courses for Grade I and Grade II Coaches.

Coaching for Beginners and Improvers.

Opportunities for competitive play.

Further details from Chris Hudson, or write for the Course Prospectus from The Director, Loughborough Summer School, University of Technology, Loughborough, LE11 3TU. Tel: 0509 263171, Extn 226.

The Memoirs of a Croquet Coach (unqualified) - with apologies to poets

Who ever would a coaching go,
with mallets balls and clips,
to talk of rushing things about,
and bisques to cover slips?

Old and young it matters not,
it just depends on wat you've got,
To make a hoop you must take care,
to see your head does not hit air.

And when it comes to croqueting
you must remember just one thing,
the position of the striker's ball
will certainly decide it all.

To take off here or split them there
requires some thought and also flair,
and then the roll, so difficult,
to learn to do without a fault.

So why do I give so much time
to teaching those who seem so blind?
Just say it simply is sublime
occasionally to coach a 'Find'.

Bob Carder
Parkstone

NCF Courses for Coaches

The National Coaching Foundation (NCF) is offering 12 courses for coaches in 1986. The courses are aimed at the club (ie Grade I) coach and cost £5.00 each. Each Region has at least one centre offering the courses. Each course is held on either a Saturday or Sunday from 10am to 3pm.

WALKER CROQUET EQUIPMENT

TOURNAMENT MALLETS

Made to your choice of weight and length

CLUB MALLETS

The Mallet with a 5-year Guarantee on the Head

TOURNAMENT BALLS

Croquet Association Approved for Tournament use.
2-year Guarantee

also

COMPLETE SETS - FULL RANGE OF EQUIPMENT

Send for Brochure to:

WALKER CROQUET EQUIPMENT
82 Queens Crescent, Chippenham, Wilts. SN14 0NP
Telephone Chippenham 654319



Ampney Park Croquet Weekends

Ampney Park is a very lovely old Cotswold stone Manor House dating back to 1601 set off by 25 acres of formal and informal gardens with a lake and river full of trout, deer park and waterfalls. The local town of Cirencester is 2½ miles away, Central London is only 1½ hours, and Heathrow 1 hour by car.

The 17th century listed building contains a wealth of history and over the last 3 years has undergone a sympathetic alteration to provide homely accommodation, retaining all the warmth and style that the architecture of this period provided. This, complemented by tasteful interior decor and period furnishing, together with enormous hearty log fires, full central heating and en suite bathrooms to every bedroom, provides for a very comfortable and warm stay in historic surroundings with a happy informal atmosphere.

On the weekends of 17th/18th May and 28th/29th June next year (other dates by arrangement) my wife and I invite a party of 8 couples to stay in the house and be well fed and watered. Coaching will be provided by a resident Croquet Association coach. The rules and tactics of the game will be taught in the small theatre within the house.

During the weekend there will be opportunities to put theory into practice on the two croquet lawns in the most beautiful setting. Nostalgia at its best! Boaters and blazers, why not do the job properly and drink Earle Grey tea with cucumber sandwiches on the terrace overlooking the lawns and garden? Toasting the winners with Pink Champagne.

Guests will be welcomed on Friday evening for an initial introduction to the weekend, and for two days full board accommodation (not including drinks) and coaching, the inclusive charge will be £190 per couple. Further details will be gladly supplied on request by letter to: Tim or Shirley Eaton, Ampney Park, Nr Cirencester, Glos. or phone 0625-582522.

Coaches Corner (3)

Break-building for Middle Bisquers

By Keith Aiton (Nottingham)

Introduction

The main part of this article is intended to demonstrate the basic method by which I would go about picking up a break without the aid of bisques. This is in no sense original thinking on my part and is the method used by most A-class players.

You may consider that picking up a break 'from nothing' is beyond your capabilities and that therefore there is no point reading any further. Do so anyway, and then try it and see. Above all, don't be afraid to fail, because it is only by trying something difficult that you find out the limits of your capabilities. In any event I have included some advice on the 4-ball break which is applicable with or without bisques. Also, I would recommend the practice routines to anyone of whatever standard.

Practice Routines

A: Place a ball 6" in front of a hoop. Run the hoop to a point 6" on the other side. Run the hoop back in the other direction and keep running the hoop in opposite directions until you fail, or get bored. You will learn a lot about how to run hoops with control from this exercise.

B: Now combine exercise A with approaching the hoop. Thus, play a croquet shot approach, run the hoop with control, make a return roquet, approach the hoop in the reverse direction, run the hoop in the reverse direction and so on. This exercise should be easier, but try to concentrate on the final positions of both balls in the approach shot as though you were trying to obtain a rush in a particular direction after running the hoop. Vary the types of approach shot - rolls, stopshots, with varying angles of split. Vary the direction in which the rush is to be taken - forwards, backwards, to either side.

C: Now put exercises A and B together and try to make a 2-ball break from hoop 1 to hoop 5 to hoop 4 to hoop 5 to hoop 1. Keep trying this four hoop sequence until you can return to hoop 1 under the same degree of control as you left it.

Picking up a break

You are playing Red and have just hit Yellow which was in a standard tice position on the West boundary. Blue and Black are joined up on the East boundary near hoop 4. Red is for hoop 1. Assume Yellow has not been cut rushed helpfully into court. Begin by taking off to Blue and Black. Do NOT try to split Yellow all the way to hoop 2 with this shot, since it is far more important for Red to be sent

accurately near Blue and Black.

Check to see whether either Blue or Black will not rush to hoop 1 because hoop 4 is in the way. Assume Blue will rush to hoop 1. Roquet Black and then stopshot Black into court obtaining a rush on Blue. Rush Blue just to the South side of hoop 1 (this is not easy) and approach hoop 1 sending Blue into a position from which it can be rushed back towards Black. After running hoop 1 rush Blue off the East boundary as near to Black as possible and then stop shot Blue back into court obtaining a rush on Black towards Yellow. Rush Black off the West boundary as near to Yellow as possible and stop shot Black into court obtaining a rush on Yellow towards hoop 2. After hoop 2 rush Yellow back towards Black; Black to Blue; Blue to hoop 3. Black should now be in pioneer position for hoop 4 and thus a 3-ball break, soon to be a 4-ball break, has been established.

This method of break building is not difficult to master provided you can rush reasonably accurately - remember that the rushes should all be 'short' in the sense that the gap between the striker's ball and the roqueted ball is relatively small - and you can approach and run hoops with control - hence the need to practice these two skills in particular.

The 4-ball break

How often have you heard someone say 'Just as I had done all the hard work'?

This is usually said by someone who has broken down after picking up a break 'from nothing' and shows that the cause of the breakdown has been complacency or lack of concentration. This complacency is easy to understand because we are all told, from our earliest days in the game, that the easiest way to make hoops is on a 4-ball break. Hence there is a natural tendency to relax once a break has been established. The truth is that the 4-ball break IS the easiest way to make hoops, but the fundamental principle of croquet still has to be followed:

PLAY EVERY SHOT WITH THE INTENTION OF MAKING THE SUBSEQUENT SHOTS AS EASY AS POSSIBLE.

So, keep thinking about the position of the pivot ball. Try to rush the pivot ball towards the pioneer and then stop shot it to the desired position, since this manoeuvre is easier than taking off from the pivot to the pioneer. Be aware of the possibility of using the pivot as a second pioneer if you have sent out a bad pioneer initially.

I would like to give just two examples of where the normal sequence of shots in a 4-ball break can be changed with advantage:

(1) After making hoop 5 send a pioneer to 2-back rather than 1-back and then send the pivot as a pioneer to 1-back. The advantage of this manoeuvre is that the pioneer for 2-back is sent out from much nearer the hoop than if it is sent out after making hoop 6, hence it should be easier to place it accurately.

(2) Along similar lines to (1) above, the pioneer for hoop 6 can be sent out after running hoop 3, with the pivot being used as a pioneer for hoop 5.

Above all I think you will gain most by frequent use of the practice routines outlined at the beginning of this article.



Keith Aiton in action. On form, one of the most accurate break players in the game today.

Nottingham reach their first Inter-Club final

Nottingham fought back to beat Cheltenham by one in the deciding game to reach the final of the Inter-Club Championship for the first time. The match was played at Nottingham on the Sunday after the Eights, in dry but overcast conditions, with the going officially described as 'conductive'.

Lunch was taken with the first round singles shared; the doubles standing at break-all, after numerous false starts by the junior partners. Davids Croker and Foulser both won their post-prandial singles quickly, to put Cheltenham 3-1 up, with the doubles still unfinished! The casual spectators of this marathon may not readily have grasped that they were watching three British and one Irish International players, with over fifty years' playing experience between them! Eventually,

Ian Vincent hit a last shot and Nottingham scraped home a few turns later to keep the match alive at tea.

Perhaps conscious of the impending wrath of the Park Keeper, Ian Vincent then proceeded to beat Martin Murray in little over an hour, completing a triple which he had abandoned earlier in the turn, for safety, with a three-ball straight double peel.

The deciding match was therefore Keith Aiton against William Prichard. William got the first break, but Keith hit the lift and also took a ball round, eschewing the routine TPO! William missed and Keith started a triple on his own ball, only to end with all four balls round Rover, having failed to run it with the peelee stuck. William's triple looked equally inevitable, but he trickled on to Blue when running Rover and only pegged out Black. With Blue by the peg, Keith took the lift to hit Red in the second corner. He took off to Blue,

Colchester: 6th October INTER-CLUB FINAL

Neither team had ever won the Inter-Club Championship before. Harrow had the stronger team on paper and had beaten Roehampton (winners in four out of the previous five years) in the semi-final, so were favourites. However, if Nottingham could beat the strong Cheltenham team in their semi-final, they could beat anyone.

The previous day, Colchester Football Club had their highest gate for three years (nearly 4000) but the crowd on Sunday at the Croquet Club numbered two: J. Walters and R. Prichard. They played a two-error game which JW won +17, doing five peels of a sextuple.

The serious matches showed the pressure of the occasion. Hyne beat Hilditch in a game that started with twelve one-hoop breaks. Cordingley took 2¼ hours to beat Death +18, while Harrow's top pair took 2¼ hours to win +15, so lunch was rather late. This, and tea, was provided for teams and crowd single-handedly by Pat Hetherington. Many thanks to her and Colchester for providing the venue for the second year running.

Roehampton: 5th October MARY ROSE FINAL

In last year's final, Roehampton had been beaten 7-0 by Bowdon. They laid the ghost by beating Bowdon 4-3 in this year's semi-final (although they were 2-3 down with two games teetering before doing so), but that defeat was truly dispelled by beating Cheltenham 7-0 in this year's final.

No neutral venue could be found and winning the toss for the home fixture was not the only luck Roehampton had, for the eventual score was somewhat flattering.

By approaching a couple of early hoops from corners, Maugham was about to beat Prichard, but by failing to run penultimate from six inches, he just failed to do so.

Lunch inspired Prichard to beat Weitz with a seventh turn triple peel - last year the deciding fourth win was also by a Welsh player, David Peterson - but the games between Guest and Johnson, and Stevens and Maugham, flipped each way protractedly

After lunch, Aiton beat Openshaw +26. He might have salvaged his triple after penult by trying the sort of promotion shot that William Prichard used often (and unsuccessfully) at the Opens, but decided to make certain of victory over a Test Selector by refraining, which squared the match at 2-2.

Meanwhile Hyne treated his opponent with great respect by some very defensive cornering, a compliment which inspired Cordingley to pick up fluent breaks anyhow to win comfortably and remain undefeated in every game of the competition. Hilditch and Solomon also won to give Harrow victory by 5-2, and the Salver yet again to a London club.

ROBERT PRICHARD

RESULTS

Semi-finals:

Harrow Oak bt Roehampton 5-2
Nottingham bt Cheltenham 4-3

Final:

(Harrow Oak names first)
D.K. Openshaw & E.W. Solomon bt K.M.H. Aiton & I.G. Vincent +15
P. Cordingley bt P.J. Death +18
J.R. Hilditch lost to N.G. Hyne -10
D.K. Openshaw lost to K.M.H. Aiton -26



The players in the Mary Rose final at Roehampton before the match. (L to R) Mark Ormerod, Mike Stevens, Jerry Guest, Ian Maugham, Edgar Jackson, Bernard Weitz, Robert Prichard, and Phil Johnson.

before flopping to Roehampton.

Meanwhile, in this rather elderly match (only one player was under 37), the youngest

Inter-Club Events

ran Rover, but could only attempt to wire Blue from the peg behind hoop 4 and return to mother. Blue missed by a whisker, and Keith pegged out.

Whether the 'Outlaws' will find their shooting sharp enough to beat Harrow Oak remains to be seen, but it is fortunate that Sherwood Forest is not a breeding ground for tropical diseases: Cheltenham might easily have contracted psittacosis!

IAN VINCENT

RESULTS

(Nottingham names first)

K.M.H. Aiton & I.G. Vincent bt W. de B. Prichard & M. Murray +3; P.J. Death bt D.R. Foulser +8; N.G. Hyne lost to D.J. Croker -15; Aiton bt Prichard +1; Vincent bt Murray +25(TP); Death lost to Croker -17; Hyne lost to Foulser -20

Nottingham won by 4 games to 3.



Harrow Oak's winning team: (L to R) Phil Cordingley, Eric Solomon, Richard Hilditch, and David Openshaw

E.W. Solomon bt I.G. Vincent +12
P. Cordingley bt N.G. Hyne +15
J.R. Hilditch bt P.J. Death +16
Harrow Oak bt Nottingham 5-2

player, Ormerod, had beaten the eldest, Jackson, by 21.

Players in the Mary Rose range (say 0-2) are perhaps suitable students for Wylie's 'Expert Croquet Tactics' and the writer will watch for elegant influences in future years. In the meantime, he is using the elegant Trophy proudly as a beer tankard.

ROBERT PRICHARD

RESULTS

Semi-Finals:

Roehampton bt Bowdon 4-3
Cheltenham I bt Southport 4-1

Final:

(Roehampton names first)
M. Ormerod & J. Guest bt G.E.P. Jackson & P.M. Johnson +21
M. Stevens bt B.G. Weitz +14
R.D.C. Prichard bt F.I. Maugham +6
M. Ormerod bt G.E.P. Jackson +21
J. Guest bt P.M. Johnson +2
M. Stevens bt F.I. Maugham +5
R.D.C. Prichard bt B.G. Weitz +26(TP)
Roehampton bt Cheltenham 7-0

Autumn in Cheltenham

Cheltenham: 18-22 September

The sound of hollow laughter echoed round the lawns at Cheltenham during the September Open 5-day Tournament. 'Entry will be limited, and it is hoped double-banking will not be necessary.' Those words in the CA fixture list were probably written before it became necessary, in view of next year's test matches, to take out of use two of the three 'championship' lawns.

With only eight lawns available for play, and a grand total of 50 doubles and 110 singles to be squeezed into the five days, double-banking was inevitable, as were shortened games and time limits. On the credit side, however, all blocks were played Swiss fashion, and except for the doubles and the highest handicap group, play was level.

Several of the entrants for the Gladstone Cup could play only after work, and with some starts as late as 5.30 pm and the nights drawing in, that manager's nightmare, the pegged down game, reared its ugly head.

All credit then, to those competitors who kept their heads down for an unbeaten run, the fast-improving Mike Finn in particular. Partnered by Millicent James, he won all the games in his doubles block, and gave a repeat performance in the afternoon singles. Debbie Latham and Margaret Langley also emerged as a formidable doubles pair, not conceding a match.



Deborah Latham, Singles & Doubles Block winner at Cheltenham's 5-day September tournament

There were 22 'away' competitors, and it says much for the Cheltenham Club that of that number no less than 11 were country members from as far afield as Kettering, Henley-on-Thames, Taunton, London and Winchester!

BILL BAWDEN RESULTS

The Gladstone Cup

(Swiss Open Singles)

4 wins: Prof B.G.F. Weitz (winner); G.E.P. Jackson
3 wins: C. Duckworth
2 wins: F.I. Maughan; P. Hands; P.L. Smith; L. Latham

1 win: Dr G.K. Taylor

Block 1

(3rd Hoop start: No contact)

5 wins: M.J. Finn

4 wins: Mrs Asa-Thomas

3 wins: D. Willetts; Mrs D.A. Wheeler

2 wins: Mrs K.M.O. Wheeler; Dr R. Wheeler; J. MacLaren, Dr J. King (1 game not played)

1 win: W.A. Bawden

0 wins: R.F.A. Crane (1 game not played)

Block 2

(3rd Hoop start: No contact)

4 wins: Mrs D. Latham

3 wins: P.F. Leach; P.A. Darby; Gp Capt R.S. Ryan; Mrs A. Warren; Mrs M. Langley; J. Exell

2 wins: Mrs D. de Q. Lenfestey

1 win: D. de Q. Lenfestey

0 wins: Mrs W.R. Bawden

Block 3

(Handicap Singles: 22pts)

4 wins: Mrs K. Whittall

3 wins: Miss D. Barber; Miss M. Hardman; P.J. Mansfield; Mrs M.J. Finn

2 wins: Mrs K. Townsend

1 win: Mrs E. Paish; K. Townsend

Block 4

(Handicap Singles: 18pts)

3½ wins: Miss E. Cheverton; C.R. Noel-Smith (Joint winners)

3 wins: Mrs R.F.A. Crane; Mrs M. Leach; Miss J. Wraith

1 win: Mrs K. Turtle; Mrs J. King

Handicap Doubles

(Swiss: 22pts)

Block A

5 wins: M.J. Finn & Mrs L. James (18)

3 wins: P.L. Smith & Miss Bishop (14½); Mrs D.A. Wheeler & D. de Q. Lenfestey (13); Mrs Asa-Thomas & K. Townsend (13); L. Latham & Mrs A. Warren (7½)

2 wins: Mr & Mrs J. King (17½); Dr B.G.F. Weitz & Mrs K. Townsend (10½); Mr & Mrs P. Leach (17); F.I. Maughan & Miss J. Wraith (14)

0 wins: Mr & Mrs R.F.A. Crane

Block B

5 wins: Mrs L. Latham & Mrs M. Langley (14)

3 wins: Dr G.K. Taylor & Miss E. Cheverton (14½); Dr R.F. Wheeler & Mrs D. de Q. Lenfestey (11½); J. MacLaren & P.J. Mansfield (12); D. Willetts & Mrs K. Whittall (14); G.E.P. Jackson & Mrs E. Paish (14)

2 wins: Mrs B. Weitz & Miss M. Hardman
1 win: Gp Capt R.S. Ryan & Mrs M.J. Finn (15½); J. Exell & A. Warren (13½); Mrs K.M.O. Wheeler & Mrs K. Turtle (17)

Cheltenham: 27-29 September Advanced Play Weekend

'And then there were seven? With lawns at Cheltenham vanishing like the ten little n----- boys of the nursery rhyme, player-manager Paul Smith did well to complete the tournament before dark on the final day. He had, of course, to resort to those mis-liked weapons, the 3-hour time limit and double-banking throughout (Help! cried the lawns). Not to worry. It was a light-hearted tournament, with sunshine too blissful to be spoiled by overly concern for one's croquet.

The game between David Foulser and Geoffrey Taylor just about sums it up. There was David poised for a +26 victory, with only the peg-out to make, and Geoffrey no doubt consoling himself with the prospect of a leisurely noggin, when Oops, David unaccountably misses. Geoffrey, now a born again croquet player, walks smartly (as he always does) on to the lawn and makes a start. But David gets a second chance - Oops again. Geoffrey gets to work to some purpose, but it is treble-chance day for David, who surely this time cannot fail to peg out. Oops.

He misses. This time a thrice reborn Geoffrey goes in for the kill, making no mistake. There's croquet for you - the game of everlasting (if mostly unfulfilled) hope.

Congratulations to David Croker and Robert Race on their unbeaten run of 6 wins in Blocks A and B respectively, and to Peter Leach for his 5-win first place in Block C.

BILL BAWDEN

Official Business

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 11.00 o'clock on Saturday 19th April 1986 at The Hurlingham Club.

AGENDA

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 1985 were published in 'Croquet' (Page 18, No 180).

2. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Copies of the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1985 will be available at the meeting. Copies will be sent to Associates resident in the United Kingdom on request to the Secretary when available.

5. ELECTION OF TREASURER

The retiring Treasurer, A.J. Oldham, offers himself for re-election

6. ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

In accordance with Rule VI the closing date for the receipt of nominations was 1st February 1986.

The following retire by rotation by Rule ii(a) and seek re-election: D.C. Caporn, R.S. Eades, R.A. Godby, T.P. Greenwood, Miss S.G. Hampson, S.N. Mulliner, A.J. Oldham.

R.S. Stevens also retires by rotation but does not seek re-election.

The following seek election under Rule VI(A)(11): P.S. Danks, P.J. Dorke, D.L. Gaunt, D.W. Shaw, C.P. Townsend.

There are thus 12 candidates for 8 vacancies.

7. MOTIONS

(A) Proposed Amendment to Rules of the CA

Add new 2nd sentence to 7(b)(iii):

'If some of the vacancies to be filled are part-time vacancies, these vacancies shall be filled by the elected candidates with the least number of votes in accordance with the principle that the shortest vacancy be filled by the elected candidate with the least number of votes'.

J.R. McCullough

(B) 'That the Croquet Association should take active steps to ensure that any television of Golf Croquet is in an acceptable form'

S.N. Mulliner

8. ELECTION OF AUDITORS

Messrs Nicholass Ames & Co offer themselves for re-election.

9. BENEFACTORS' BOOK

The names of the Benefactors will be read.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11. PRESIDENT'S CLOSING ADDRESS

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Only the following categories of Membership who have paid their 1986 subscription are eligible to vote in the Council Election: Full members, Junior and Life members, and Restricted members.

A voting paper is included with this copy of 'Croquet' and must be signed by the voter and returned to the CA Office before 9th April. If you do not receive a voting paper please notify the CA Secretary immediately.

B.C. Macmillan

Extract of Minutes of COUNCIL MEETING

held at the Hurlingham Club on Saturday 30th November, 1985.

The following decisions etc were made:

1. Tournament Committee Report:

Agreed that the Women's Championship would be Draw and Process, with the Final best of 3. Mr Rothwell, who had retired from managing the national club events for over 10 years, was thanked for his services.

2. Club Registration Fees: It was unanimously agreed, after discussion, that the fees for 1986 be 35p per member, with a minimum of £7.00, that any new club registering should only pay the minimum subscription for the first 3 years at the rate annually approved by Council, and that School, College and University Clubs should be liable for the minimum fee regardless of membership.

3. Seeding: After a lengthy discussion, the following motion was passed by 14 votes to 8. 'That seeding in a CA event be discontinued'.

4. Referendum Result: 983 voting papers were sent out for the Referendum concerning Golf Croquet and Television. 421 were returned, of which 2 were spoiled and a further 11 received after the closing date. 42.8% of Associates voted. 281 voted 'yes' and 138 'no'. It was unanimously agreed that the voting papers be destroyed. It was also agreed that a Motion be proposed at the next AGM to consider rescinding that passed at the last AGM. It was also reported that 'Short Croquet' would be filmed for TV from 7th to 9th May and, hopefully, screened during May.

REFEREES COURSES

The following Courses for Referees are scheduled.

Date	Venue	Instructor
21/23 March	Bowdon	Barry Keen
12/13 April	Colchester	Bernard Neal

Anyone who wishes to become a Referee should let Brian Macmillan know as soon as possible so that we can determine demand and arrange appropriate courses. Arrangements will be made to examine candidates either whilst they are on the course or at a convenient later date.

Changes in Officials

South Shropshire Croquet Club

Secretary: Martin Timmis, 2 Ambulance Houses, Ludlow Road, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 9QL.

Surbiton Croquet Club

New Secretary: Peter Cripps, Hazel House, Wentworth Close, Surbiton, Surrey.

Crawley Croquet Club

New Secretary: Miss M. Reid, 18 Southlands Avenue, Horley, Sussex.

New Clubs Registered

Welcome to...

Lloyds Croquet Club

Secretary: A.P.J. Harker, Lloyds, London, EC3

Pendle Croquet Club

Secretary: J. Beech, Woodlands, Coates, Barnoldswick, Lancashire, BB8 6HH. Tel: 0282-813070

Winchester Tennis & Squash Club

Bereweke Road, Winchester, Hampshire, SO22 6AP. Secretary: B. Mussell. Tel: 0962-54028

New Referees

Dr D. Cairns -
P.F. Leach -
N.J.C. Gooch -

New Coaches (Grade I)

Mrs V. Collier I.C. Meredith

Deaths

We regret to report the following recent death:
Bob Chamberlain - Nottingham

Handicap Alterations

All-England Final

J.S. Prior	9 to 6
Phyllis Court	
B.G. Bucknall	5 to 4½
J.G. Young	8 to 7
A.C.F. Armstrong	12D11 to 11

Edgbaston

I.C. Meredith	6 to 5½
A.C. Sweeney	7 to 6



Richard Rothwell, now giving up the reins after managing the CA's national club events for more than 10 years.

Compton

Miss D.V. Harding	12 to 10
A.J. Kellaway	9 to 8
E.J.A. Salmon	12 to 10
Mrs B.J. Salmon	14 to 12
D. Daintree	7 to 6½
Mrs Tyrwhitt-Drake	5 to 6
Mrs R.E. Tucker	6 to 7
Lt Col R.P. Chappell	4 to 6
Miss D.E. Dennant	7½ to 7

Bristol

Mrs R. Guban	9 to 8
R.W. Ransom	5½ to 5
Mrs S. Ransom	7 to 6½
H.S. Watson	7 to 8

Bath

S.J. Garrett 3½ to 3

Budleigh Salterton

W.G. Iredale	13D11 to 12D10
J. McB. Wood	7½ to 6½
Mrs D.M.E. Smith	13D11 to 12D10
Mrs D.C. Wallace	7 to 6½

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

CA MALLET

1986 Prices

£35.00 to Associates

£45.00 to Non-Associates

FIXTURE ALTERATIONS & ADDITIONS

Buxton Weekend

A Short Croquet Tournament will be held at the Pavilion Gardens, Buxton, on 14th and 15th June. Entry fee £5.00. Entries to Barry Keen, 20 Grove Park, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 8QA. (Tel: 0565-2420)

Golf Croquet Championships

The 1986 Golf Croquet Championships will again be held in Henley but NOT in May (as stated in the last issue of 'Croquet')

Official Business

The Ascot Challenge Cup (open singles) will be contested on Saturday, 21st June (present holder, Geoff Roy) and the Delves Broughton Challenge Cup (open doubles) on Sunday the 22nd (holders John Rose and Roy).

On Friday the 20th, however, there will be a new event designed especially for devotees of Golf croquet. This event will be open only to players who have no Association handicap or, if they have, one of ten or more. All games will be doubles but players may enter with or without a nominated partner.

Entries must be received by June 6th.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Subscriptions for 1986 are now overdue, and we would be grateful for immediate payment.

The current subscription rates are:

Standard: £14.00

Junior & Reduced: £7.50

Members should note that, as in previous years, the Fixture Book will not be sent to anyone who has not paid their subscription.

National Short Croquet Team Championship

The 1986 National Short Croquet Team event will be played as a knock-out competition. Teams will consist of 4 players. A club may enter as many teams as it likes, but a player may only play for his or her original team.

Matches will be organised on a regional basis in the early rounds, and in some cases if there is a large entry, matches may be played as blocks of four between 4 clubs at the same time.

The entry fee for each team is £5, and entries should be submitted by 1st April to Chris Hudson at The Oaklands, Englesea Brook, Near Crewe, Cheshire, CW2 5QW. Tel: 0270-820296.

Full details of the Draw and the rules of the competition will be circulated to all competing clubs by 1st May.

Attendances at Council

Meetings: 1985/6

(Meetings after 5th March until 31st January 1986)

L. Wharrad Chairman	C2, P4, F1, T2	Total 9/11
A.B. Hope, V.Chairman	C3, P2, F2, I2, T2	Total 11/13
A.J. Oldham Treasurer	C3, P4, F2, T2	Total 11/11
G.N. Aspinall	C2, I2	Total 4/5
Mrs J. Anderson	C3, P4	Total 7/7
L.S. Butler	C2, P3,	Total 5/6
D.C. Caporn	C3, P3, F1	Total 7/8
R.S. Eades	C3, P2	Total 5/7
R.A. Godby	C3, F2, H1	Total 6/6
T.P. Greenwood	C2, P3, F1	Total 6/8
Mrs W. Hague	C3, P4	Total 7/7
Miss S.G. Hampson	C3, H1, T2	Total 6/6
B.A. Keen	C3, H1, T2	Total 6/6
Miss J. MacLeod	C3, T1	Total 4/4
J.R. McCullough	C3, P4, F1	Total 8/8
S.N. Mulliner	C3, F2, I2	Total 7/7
Dr M. Murray	C3, I2	Total 5/5
Prof B.G. Neal	C3, I2	Total 5/5
D.K. Openshaw	C2, P2, I2, T1	Total 7/9
C.B. Sandford	C3, F1	Total 4/5
Miss P. Shine	C2, T2	Total 4/5
R.S. Stevens	C2	Total 2/3
P. Stoker	C2, P3	Total 5/6
E. Strickland	C2 F1	Total 3/5

KEY

C - Council
P - Publicity & Development
F - Finance & General Purposes
H - Handicap Coordination
I - International
T - Tournament