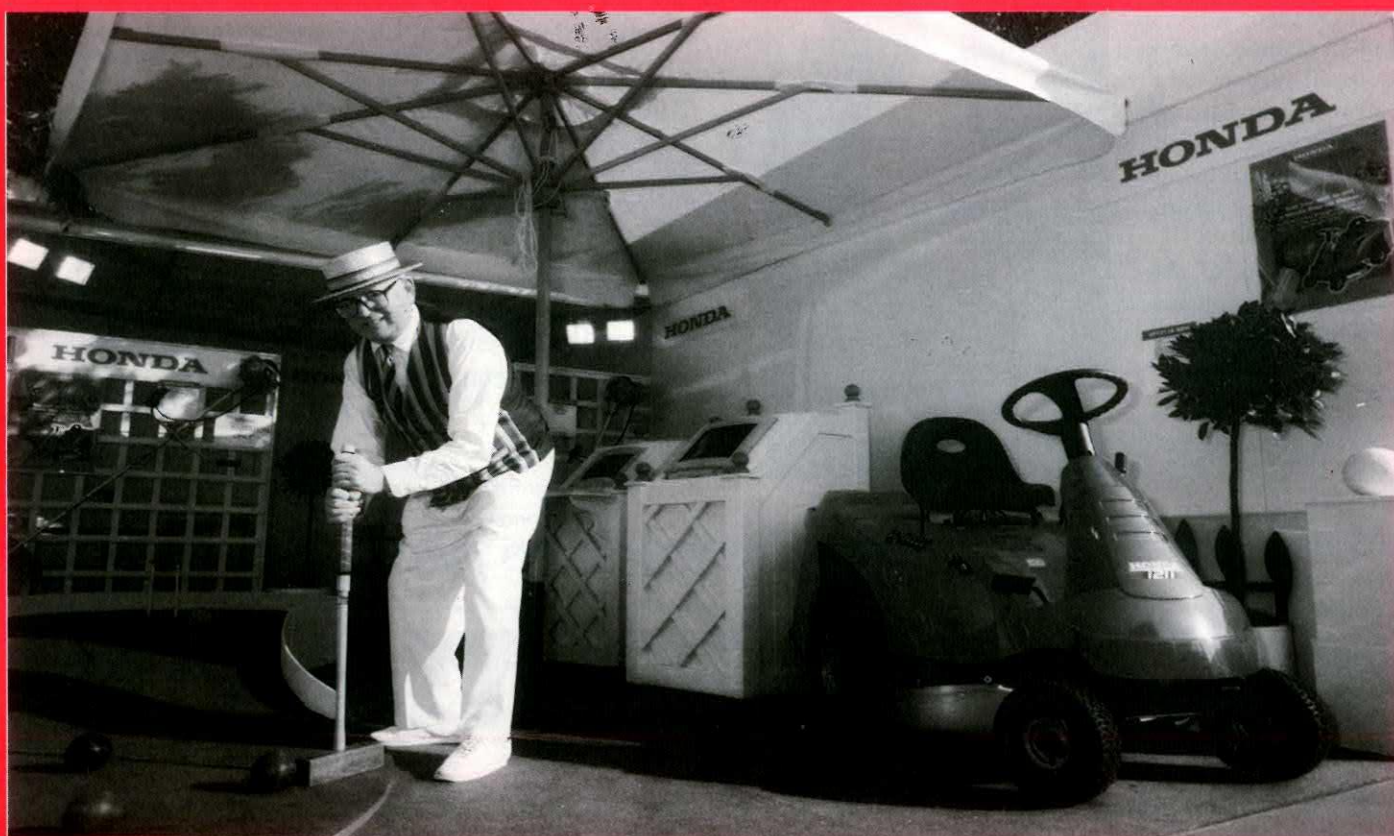


The Croquet Gazette

Issue 257

September 1998

**Brian Macmillan shows visitors how
it's done at the Chelsea flower show on
the Honda croquet challenge stand**



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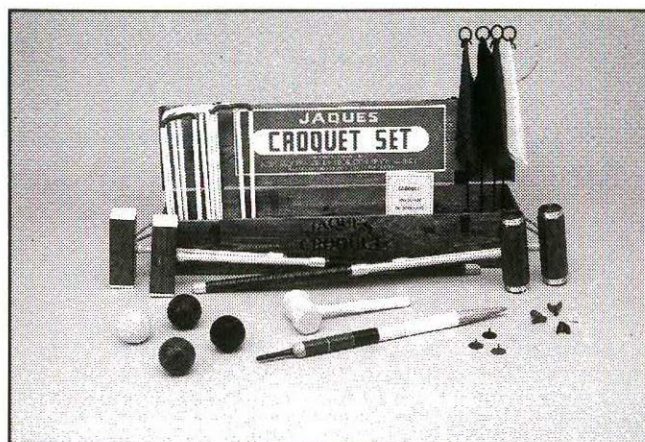
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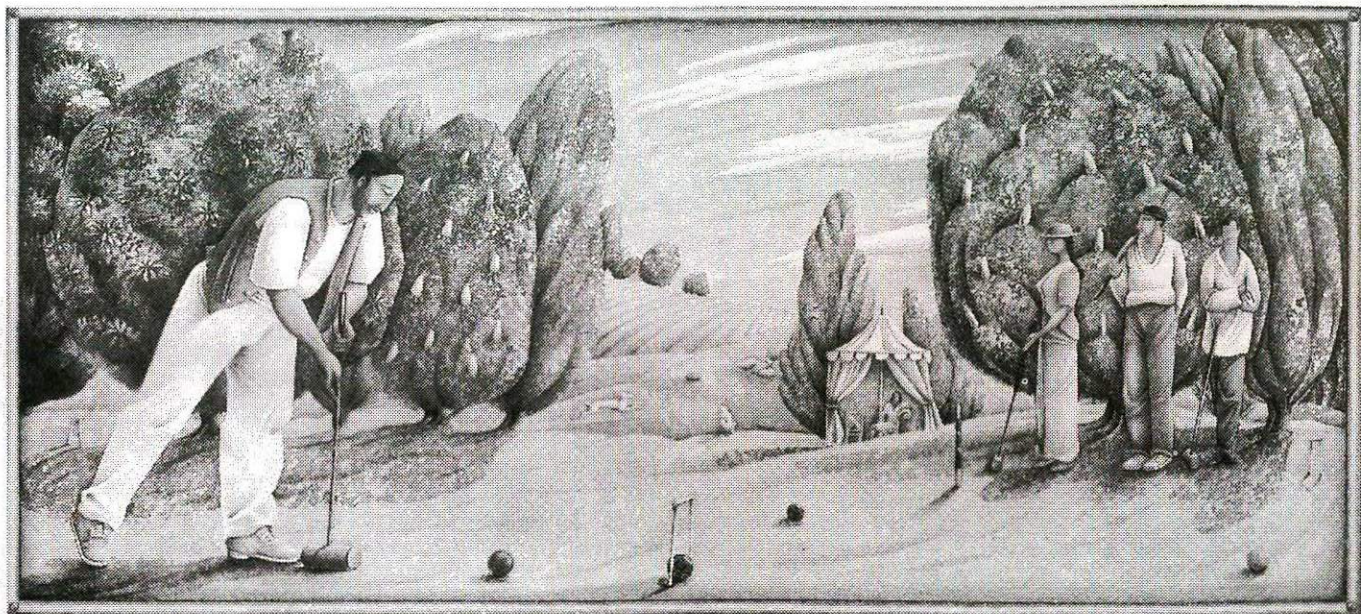
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Specific Questions & Queries

Specific questions or queries should be sent direct to the relevant CA official, e.g. Laws questions to the chairman of the Laws Committee.

Copy Details

General copy and contributions should be sent direct to the editor on floppy disc (text or ASCII files). Typed work or clear handwriting is also acceptable.

Photographs are always required. Both black and white or colour prints can be utilised. Please detail on the reverse of all photos the subject of the picture, and if you require the photographs to be returned please include your address on the reverse.

Tournament Results & Reports

Tournament results should be reported on the new tournament return sheet. These have been issued in a bid to make the reporting of events and the administration of the rankings easier. Please ensure that the forms are used.

Tournament reports should be written and sent to the editor within SEVEN DAYS of the completion of a tournament. Failure to comply with this guideline will result in reports failing to be published.

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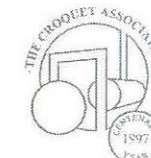
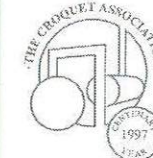
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THE CROQUET GAZETTE



Issue 257 September 1998 £3.00

Front Cover: Brian Macmillan at the Chelsea flower show, on the Honda croquet challenge stand.

Next Issue Published
17th November

Editor's Hotline
Monday 16th November
6.00 pm - 10.00 pm

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Editorial

Thanks to Express Newspapers' croquet had it's fifteen minutes of fame in the popular press for 1998. The Clock started ticking on Sunday 16th August, when a page of the Sunday Express was devoted to David Maughan, with the headline 'I say, we've got a wild man on the croquet lawn'. Needless to say some of the article had an element of truth stretching, or even perhaps inaccuracies. However it did not mention 'Alice in Wonderland' or 'cucumber sandwiches', but it did poke its finger at the class barriers by stating David was a working class lad from Sale, and reference was made to the committee men who run the sport being likened to the infamous 57 who ran rugby union when Will Carling played.

This was followed the next day by the exciting news that various celebrity figures indulge in the game, including musicians from the band Oasis, which saw the temperature of the CA office telephone rise significantly, and the Chairman and others rapidly re-organising schedules to accommodate the spin-off interviews of both radio, press and television. Oh yes, I nearly forgot to mention that David too made a TV appearance, on the channel 4 'Big Breakfast'.

Chairman's Column

Once again we are nearly at the end of another season and for most of us it will be the last rush to complete our club competition games before finals day. For the Council members and members of our standing committees there will then be a long series of meetings to plan for the 1999 season. It is now that we would welcome any suggestions to be incorporated in our plans for the future seasons. If you feel strongly about any issue please contact me or any member of Council.

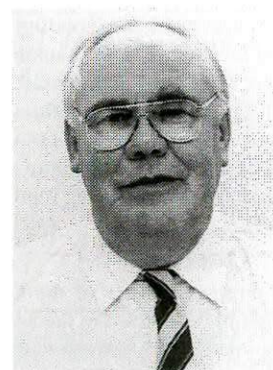
After several years on the Council, five of our members have decided not to seek re-election or have resigned due to changes in personal circumstances. I would like to thank Ian Burridge, Andrew Gregory, Syd Jones, Denis Shaw and Adrian Wadley for all the help they have given to the Association in the past.

The departure of Syd Jones leaves somewhat of a vacuum in the Golf Committee. I believe it is essential that we re-establish the committee and continue with the work that has been started by the present committee. Golf croquet may not be a high profile game to many croquet players but it is an integral part of many club activities and golf croquet players contribute considerably to maintaining the croquet infrastructure in this country. I shall be contacting



Elsewhere in the newspapers during recent months there have been several other mentions of croquet. The Daily Telegraph carried the story of the Rev Simon Caldwell being barred from playing in a village competition. The Guardian ran a story on the popularity of Gateball in China, whilst the Western Mail covered the first international between Wales and Canada in the sports pages, allocating more space than that of the vital English test victory in the series against South Africa.

Given all of this information I have to ask the question, is any publicity, no matter what the focus, good publicity? Should we allow others to shape and colour the image of croquet, or should we decide that for ourselves?



several keen golf players in the near future, but if you feel you could contribute to the organisation of this version of the sport, please get in touch with me.

I have just returned from ten days in the north at Bowdon and congratulate the club on a most friendly week's play followed by a very competitive Championship. Whilst in the area I also managed to look in on the 'Ladies' at Southport, where the Barlow and Longman were played as two sixes. I am sure we have many more competent ladies in the game. Let's try and make it two eights, next year when it moves south to Southwick.

A permanent task of the CA publicity committee is to increase the awareness of the general public to our game in the hope that we can attract more members into the sport. It is only by attracting more members into our clubs that we can increase our own membership. I

Contd. on page 16

Obituary

Dr. W. Ralph Bucknall

The death of Ralph Bucknall on 25th May 1998, at the age of 92 years after a short illness, caused great sadness at the Budleigh Salterton Croquet club.

He was a keen sportsman, having played rugby, football, cricket and tennis, in his younger days. In the 1950's he moved to a house with a large lawn where he enthusiastically took up croquet. Subsequently he helped establish a flourishing croquet club at Norton Hall near Billingham, where he could be seen at ease with his pipe and a drink after the day's work was done.

Ralph encouraged others to join the CA and to play in tournaments. His advice was that if there was time for only one tournament a year, then the place to go was Budleigh Salterton. There he intended to retire and he spent several years planning the event, buying the land and building a house for his own occupation, with an obligatory lawn large enough for croquet.

In 1966 his handicap was 7.5 and following his retirement it fell progressively to -0.5 in 1972. Shortly after that came the CA changes which increased all players' handicaps by three. He became deeply involved in the Budleigh Salterton Club and was particularly helpful and welcoming to new members.

In the 1970's Ralph completed the difficult task of producing a history of the first one hundred years of the Club. This well researched document is often referred to for details of past events and a copy is lodged at the local museum.

Deafness was a feature of his game. As an aid to concentration, he would switch off his hearing aid to ensure uninterrupted calm during play. He developed a formidable doubles partnership with Jack Lee, another deaf player and their 'unaided' consultations over tactics were a feature for connoisseurs of the Budleigh scene.

In 1991 he suffered a stroke which caused a severe level of incapacity and regrettably put an end to his playing. However, he was made an honorary member of the Club and still enjoyed visiting as a spectator.

It is a tribute to the respect and affection in which Ralph is still held that generous donations to provide a permanent reminder of his contribution to the club's wellbeing have already been received. It is hoped to achieve a suitable memorial in the Club's grounds at an early opportunity.

Ralph leaves a daughter, two sons, ten grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, to whom we extend our sympathy.

NEWS & INFORMATION

Student croquet

After reading his article in the May issue of the Gazette on the subject of junior croquet, I spoke to Peter Dyke about Student Croquet, and what could be done to increase activity in this area. Initially we have decided to create a directory of student players, which will help to publicise university events such as the Student Championships and the Oxford and Cambridge tournaments, to help arrange matches where there is a club, and hopefully to organise a Student team. If you are a student player, or if you are a member of a University club that would like to make contact with other clubs, and would like to be on the directory, could you please contact me, Chris Dent at:

939 Walmersley Road, Bury, Lancs. BL9 5LL.

Unfortunately I am not presently on E-

mail, but I shall be in September, so I would be grateful if you could supply an E-mail address. In addition, students under the age of 21 who have handicaps of about 5 or below are eligible for the National Junior Squad, run by Chris Clarke, which organises coaching sessions and matches. Anyone interested should contact Chris on kruncher@msn.com.

Red ball required

Ashby & District CC currently have an incomplete set of Walker balls and would very much like to complete the set by the addition of a red ball. Has any club a red Walker ball that they wish to donate or sell? Please contact Jeremy Staley tel: 01283 550539

Contd. on page 17

The Croquet Association
Notice of Meeting

The annual General Meeting of the Croquet Association will be held at the Hurlingham Club on Saturday 17 October 1998 commencing at 11.00am. Coffee will be served beforehand from 10.15 am.

Agenda

- 1) **Minutes of the previous meeting held on Saturday 18 October 1997.** These were published in **The Croquet Gazette** No. 254 (March 1998). Copies will be available at the meeting and will be sent to Resident Associates on written request to the Secretary.
- 2) **Chairman's Report**
- 3) **Accounts for the year 31 December 1997 and Treasurer's Report.** These accounts and a brief commentary were published in **The Croquet Gazette**, No. 256, (July 1998). Copies will be available at the meeting and a more comprehensive report will be sent to resident Associates on written request to the Secretary.
- 4) **Election of Hon Treasurer:** Dr R W Bray offers himself for re-election.
- 5) **Election of Auditors:** Messrs Morgan, Brown and Spofforth offer themselves for re-election.
- 6) **Election of Council Members:** The following four members retire by rotation under rule 2: Messrs C D Clarke, A K Gregory, D W Shaw and D W Trotman. Mr A M Wadley has resigned and a further unfilled vacancy exists as a result of the death of Mr S T Badger. Messrs Clarke and Trotman seek re-election under rule 7A(a)(i). Other nominations have been received as follows:
Mr A G Fathers proposed by Mr A J Oldham, seconded by Mr D J F Gurney;
Mr D K Openshaw proposed by Dr M Murray, seconded by Mr A J Oldham;
Prof. A Pidcock proposed by Mr W H Arliss, seconded by Mr D W Trotman;
Dr I G Vincent proposed by Mr I D Bond, seconded by Mr G W Noble
Consequently there are six candidates for the six vacancies on Council and an election will not be necessary.
- 7) **Benefactors' Book:** The names of the Benefactors will be read.
- 8) **Presentation of the Apps Bowl to Andrew Cowing.**
- 9) **Any Other Business.**
- 10) **President's Closing Address.**

PWP Campion
Secretary
2 August 1998

Club News

New Club Opens in Wiltshire



Richard Stevens, Chairman of Hamptworth croquet section, John Solomon President of the Croquet Association, Bill Arliss Chairman of the Croquet Association, and John Newman, Secretary of the Hamptworth Croquet section, during the opening day.

Hamptworth Golf & Country Club in Wiltshire opened its croquet section in August. 50 enthusiasts met up at the Hamptworth to meet John Solomon, President of the Croquet Association, who attended this unique occasion and to hear about the plans for the Club's 4 tournament lawns.

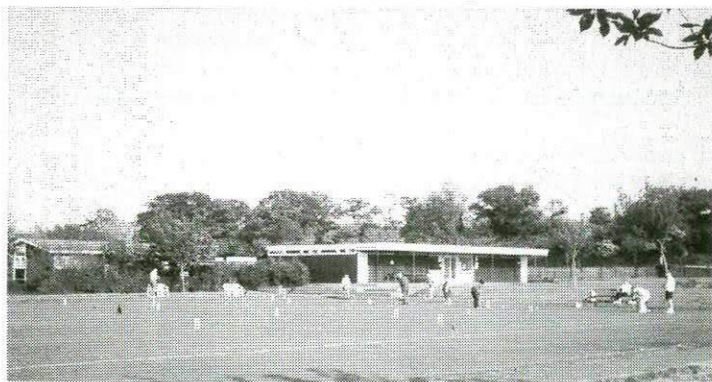
Richard Stevens, Chairman of the section, said that he was delighted with the turn-out and was looking forward to a full year of activities designed to encourage the novice and proficient players alike. Regular Club sessions will take place with both Golf Croquet and Association Croquet being played.

Phil Stevens, the General Manager of Hamptworth, stated that the opening of the croquet section of the club complimented the other thriving sections which include a Championship Golf course, fully equipped fitness suite and excellent restaurant and bar.

Anyone wishing to know more about the activities at Hamptworth should contact Chris Huffam or Phil Stevens, at Hamptworth Golf & Country Club, Tel: 01794 390155 Fax: 01794 390022.

New Venue in Middlesborough - goodbye Ormesby Hall.....hello Prissick Park

After nearly nine years of play at Ormesby Hall, the Middlesborough club have moved to Prissick Park, a short distance away, which they hope will allow the club to develop in the future.



New Club Formed at Bishop Auckland Castle, County Durham

A croquet club has now been formed in the grounds of Auckland Castle, by kind permission of the Bishop of Durham. There are two courts at the rear of the castle on what was formerly the kitchen garden, which is ideal, as it provides unrestricted daily use including weekends and the comfort of outhouses for shelters, equipment storage and toilet accessibility.

Following an open day on 10th May, when 40 brave interested individuals turned up to play croquet on the imposing front lawns of the castle, the club was formed on 31st May and has quickly increased its membership to 30 people.



Club members Mary Tobin, Norah Raine, Ken Raine and Doreen Richardson in play at Auckland castle.

A New club at Hayes, Bromley in Kent

Bromley, the largest borough in London, has only had one small private club in the former premises of Burroughs Welcome foundation. After two years of work a new club is being founded in the sports trusts grounds near to Baston School. The small Loggia has been erected as a store for the equipment and a shelter and rest area for members. It is hoped to have the lawns ready for April 1999 when there should be at least one dedicated lawn and one which may be used for other sports in the winter. There is room for a further two lawns.

A number of people have expressed an interest and it is hoped in the next 8 months to have a number of other people who wish to support this venture. Anyone who plays croquet or is interested in learning should contact Eric Dennison 01689 855999.



Great things from little loggias grow.....or at least we hope so in Kent

New Home for Bury Croquet Club

Report & photos by Margaret Anderton

During the winter months the club moved from lawns at the Athletic Track in Bury to Coronation Park, Radcliffe about three miles away. Advantages of the new venue include the possibility of playing at any time rather than being restricted by the Athletic Club to two evenings a week, a better surface and the use of a small clubhouse. The facility offered by the Council was a derelict bowling green and building and deciding to move and take on the task of bringing the place up to any sort of reasonable standard required a tremendous act of faith. There were large bare patches on the lawn where goal areas had been when the local children played soccer and one where a fire had been lit on the grass. However, last October the decision was made to make the move. Club members helped a groundsman to take turf from the edge and patch the damaged areas only to have it vandalised twice within 24 hours and the turf torn up again! It was then decided that the only chance of success was to have full security fencing and this was erected and partly paid for by the council. All through the winter months members cleared the clubhouse, cleaned and decorated and by Easter it was wonderfully transformed. When the early season work had been done on the lawns and all the shrubs in the park flowered and the sun came out all the work really seemed worth while. A five-a-side football pitch has been constructed in another part of the park to make up for the loss of the bowling green as a soccer area.

We had the Official Opening performed by The Worshipful the Mayor and the Mayoress of the Metropolitan Borough of Bury (Councillor Roy-Edward Walker and Mrs Walker) on Saturday 18th April. Guests included Paul Campion (Secretary of the CA), council officers who had



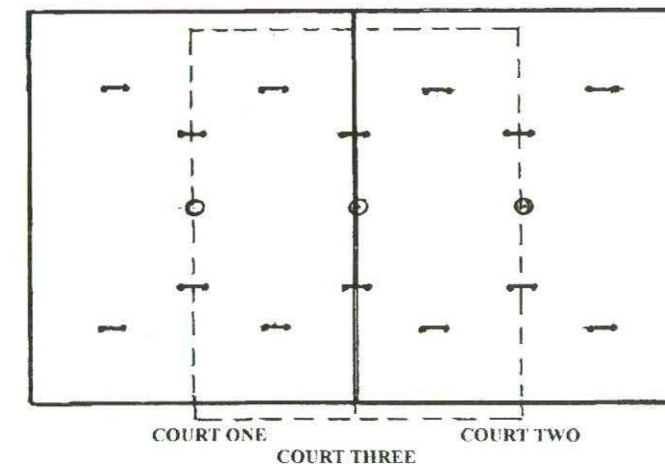
Bury lawn & clubhouse, Coronation Park 1998.

helped with the project, a Councillor from the Leisure Services Committee and members of other Croquet Clubs (Pendle, Ellesmere, Llanfairfechan and Crake Valley). Refreshments were provided and much appreciated and then Fun Croquet games were played. Quite a number of people who had not played before came and had a go including lots of local children and we have gained several new members as a result of this very successful event.

Club members are now enjoying playing whenever they want and the lawns are already being used every week-day evening. The grass is doing well and we can achieve rushes which were almost impossible on the centre lawn at the previous location. But in case anyone is expecting a perfect surface remember that the lawn was a crown bowling green. There can be some interesting shots when the ball goes over the crown and gathers speed down the other side! There is no electricity in the clubhouse but we will manage to produce the usual standard of meals for visiting teams. All in all members are feeling very optimistic about the future of the club and hoping to increase interest in croquet in Bury.

Tynemouth Priory - Instant extra courts

Idea by Brenda Dowsen



Set an additional peg and two hoops down the line separating the two courts, then play your extra game round the centre, dotted lines area). There is still an overlap but only over half of each court.. Give it a try, half double banking has got to be better than double banking.

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The Peel Memorials Centenary Surbiton 7 - 10 May 1998

Report & Photos by Julian Straw

This year was a special occasion for 'The Peels'; its hundredth birthday. Ladies and gentlemen compete separately on handicap for enormous twin silver bowls, and again in mixed pairs for elegant silver goblets. Many will have seen the bowls, inscribed with many great names, in the recent exhibition at the Lawn Tennis Museum in Wimbledon.

Sadly, the level of entry today is but a fraction of that in Edwardian days, but the competition this year was no less keen. 14 gentlemen and 7 ladies fought for their respective singles titles, and 14 pairs for the doubles.

The format has evolved somewhat over the years, as the tournament has been cropped to a long weekend. Three rounds of doubles are played on the first day to reach a final, with the singles beginning on Friday. Sunday afternoon is the setting for cliff hanging finals.

The Gentlemen's event was played as a seven round Swiss. Purists will recognise that this is one round

too many. The manager recognised this too, when the 2 critical games on Sunday afternoon both yielded the 'wrong' result, leaving John Davey, Brian Rees, Mike Lambert and David Mumford all on 5 wins, unresolvable on a who-beat-whom basis. A count of hoop difference squeezed a victory for David.

The ladies event was played as an American block, and produced a clear winner in Sheila Watts, who won all her games: clearly a managerial favourite.

The doubles produced the usual crop of tight games. Few, however, can have been as tight as that in the first round which saw Roger and Sue

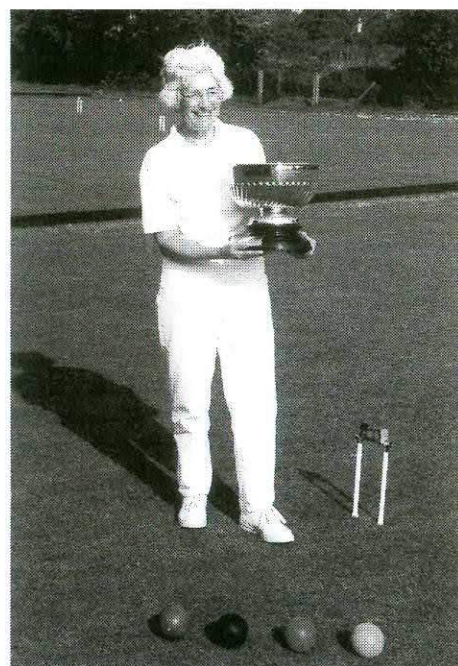
Best up against Kevin Carter and Gina Lewis. With scores excitingly level on the show lawn as time was called, Gina failed to make a hoop. She and Kevin then cleared the lawn and congratulated their opponents, and all seemed surprised by the silent multitude. When enquiry was made the awful truth was revealed, and the ROT was called to declare the Bests the winners +0T. This turned out to be of little importance, since the manager's unique formula required the 'best' first round losers to proceed to the next stage. However, the Bests went on to beat all comers, winning the final against Derek and Sheila Watts. It was also noted by traditionalists that the final was contested by two married couples.

Despite a hectic schedule the club was very pleased to obtain the services of Alan Oldham to present the prizes, and he was able to give the following historical context to the event.

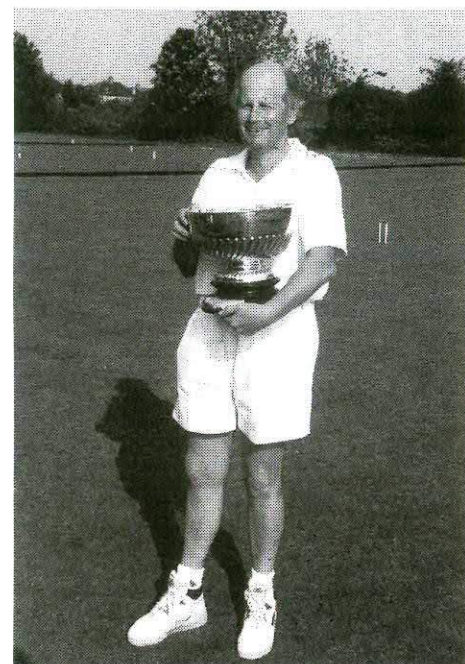
"This is the centenary year of this handicap competition, inaugurated in memory of our founder, Walter Hayward Peel, who having worked magnificently to create the United All England Croquet Association - as we were then known - died in October 1897 before he could see what a splendid child he had produced. The two handsome silver bowls were paid for by direct subscription from Associates, including a very generous contribution from players in Scotland, and cost the princely sum of £29!

In the first competition play began on Tuesday 12th July 1898 on the old grounds of the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis & Croquet club at Worple Road. The entry comprised 36 gentlemen and 34 ladies, with 31 pairs in the doubles which, were it to be repeated today, would be a wonderful but daunting prospect for any manager. It is not surprising therefore to find that although it was played entirely on a knock-out basis the competition was not finished by the Saturday and the ladies' semi-finals and final had to be played later."

There can be few more pleasant ways to spend a long weekend. The sun shone throughout, and splendid lunches and teas were enjoyed by all.



Sheila Watts, Ladies Champion 1998



David Mumford, Men's Champion 1998

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Extracts from the unconfirmed Minutes of the Council Meeting on 11th July 1998

Council accepted with regret the resignation of Adrian Wadley, necessitated by a move overseas. To fill the vacancy thus created on the Selection Committee, Council approved the co-option of Richard Hilditch to that committee.

Bill Sidebottom reported that development of new balls by Messrs Jaques is continuing and that two new sets are being made available for testing. The Tournament Committee will at its next meeting address the matter of the make and the purchase of balls for future CA tournaments. The Equipment Committee currently supports Barlow GT balls pending development of new Jaques balls.

Council noted the decision of the Handicap Committee to award the Apps Bowl for the most improved male player to Andrew Cowing of Cheltenham, and the Steel Bowl for the most improved female player of 1997 to Shona Vaissiere of the Plymouth Club.

Following a suggestion from Alan Oldham, during discussion of the report of the Editorial Board, consideration will be given to publishing in The Croquet Gazette an outline or commentary on the proposed changes in the Laws, such as has already appeared in the Australian croquet magazine.

The Selection Committee reported on their selection of players for the European Championships, the Home Internationals and the Solomon Trophy; and on the selection of seeded players in the Open Championships.

Council approved the presentation of glass goblets as mementoes to the winners of the Peel Memorials in 1998, the centenary year of that event.

Two new computers of greater capacity are being installed in the CA office.

In discussion on the report of the Coaching Committee concern was expressed at the fact that attendance at courses had been significantly lower than in the past.

Council noted that the Solomon Trophy match had recently been won 14 - 7 and that in the President's match, played under US rules, the USA had won 9 - 0.

Bill Sidebottom reported that the plans for the World Golf Croquet Championships at Leamington Spa in October 1998 were well under way.

The Chairman reported that after much hard work the report to the English Sports Council had been submitted and accepted.

The changes in Regulations 13(f) - introducing Wharrad Turns - were formally ratified.

Amendments to Council Standing Orders including the institution of a Council Practice Book were formally approved.

Council noted the tremendous amount of work carried out by Brian Macmillan at the Chelsea flower show which had resulted in over 250 serious enquiries about clubs, equipment and literature.

Council noted that the Australian Croquet Association no longer wished the CA to send them silver and bronze medals since they have instituted their own gold and silver medals competition. Council agreed with some nostalgic regret to send no more medals to Australia.

The Secretary reported that the membership of 63 Associates had lapsed and that four Associates had died since the last meeting. Council confirmed the election of 38 new Associates. As at 2nd July the number of paid-up Associates was stated to be 1630 including 66 overseas members.

The Secretary also reported that he had recently visited Bury (for the opening of their club at a new site) and Oxford University club. Since the last meeting of Council two new clubs have registered with the CA and two clubs have registered again after an interval of not being registered but three clubs have chosen to no longer be registered.

Council noted that Alexandra Ehrmann had been commissioned to write a croquet article for Country Life. (This excellent article duly appeared in the issue dated 20th August 1998.)

A. J Oldham
31 August 1998

Steel Bowl Presentation

Plymouth Croquet club's Shona Vaissiere was presented with the Steel Memorial Bowl by Paul Campion, the Croquet Association secretary. The presentation was at the club's Hartley Park headquarters in central Plymouth and marked Shona's selection as the most improved woman player in the country in 1997.

Shona, 37, who lives and works in Salcombe, is in her fourth year in croquet and has progressed smoothly from novice to a minus half handicap.

"Next season's target will be to try to win the women's championship at Cheltenham," said Shona, who won the women's championship of Australia in March this year.

The Steel Memorial Bowl is named after Dorothy Steel, one of the foremost women players between the wars.



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CA Centenary Mallets remain available in 1998

Great Britain vs. USA - The Solomon Trophy Bowdon Croquet Club, 6th - 10th July 1998

Report by Christine Irwin, photos by Christine Irwin & Rupert Webb

The US team of Jacques Fournier, Mik Mehas, Charlie Smith, John Osborn, Jim Audas and Britt Ruby with their non-playing captain/coach Erv Peterson assembled at Bowdon on 4th July. Sunday 5th was the US Rules event where the US players took on John Solomon and his select team made up of Colin Irwin, Don Gaunt, Phil Cordingley, Martin Murray and Christine Irwin. The 3 doubles and 6 singles was a 9-0 rout to the visitors.

Monday morning saw the start of the more serious stuff - played under Association rules the format was a full 21 match test consisting of 9 doubles and 12 singles with each match being the best of 3 games. The British team were Steve Comish (captain), Keith Aiton, Phil Cordingley, Colin Irwin, Jeff Dawson and Don Gaunt.

The doubles games got off to a tentative start. The first game on lawn 2 was a nervous affair with all 4 players (Aiton and Cordingley v. Mehas and Osborn) making errors. After about 2+ hours, Mehas and Osborn took the first game for the US with a +15 score. The second game also saw the US pair dominate and, although Aiton's shooting was on form, the British pair made little progress with hoops and Mehas and Osborn took the first match for the US.

Meanwhile on lawn 3, Irwin and Gaunt took their first from Audas and Ruby, +15. In the second, Irwin ran an early break to 4-back but all three other players had several chances that came unstuck. After several potential finishing turns, Gaunt eventually made it to take the second +13 and tie the series.

On lawn 1, Comish and Dawson took the first from Smith and Fournier in 1+ hours with a +25 score. In the second the US pair took an early advantage with Fournier playing a well controlled break. He was hampered after 3-back and unable to make a roquet so conceding the innings. Dawson capitalised with a break to 4-back but a weak leave allowed Fournier to set up his partner Smith. Smith failed to take advantage of this but neither could Comish. A series of errors by Comish, including two failed attempts at hoop 1 and a couple of missed short roquets, were matched by those of Smith before the US pair eventually came through +8. In the deciding third, Fournier continued to play well taking a competent break to 4-back. Comish responded playing much more solidly than he had in the previous game. After the US pair missed the lift, Dawson had the opportunity to make a break but he then replicated his partner's errors of the previous game and failed hoop 1. That was GB's last chance as Smith went on to complete a well controlled triple to take the match giving the US a 2-1 lead on the first day.

Tuesday was the first day of singles. On lawn 1 Dawson v. Audas got off to a scrappy early start with Dawson missing some 7 yard roquets and going off the lawn on a couple of croquet strokes while Audas was also struggling with his breaks. Eventually Audas got to 4-back and peg when Dawson hit the last lift to fight his way back into the game. However Audas managed to hold on and ran out the eventual winner +5. The second game also went the US way, this time more convincingly with a +25 score.

On lawn 2 (Irwin v. Smith), again it was the US who showed the early promise. Smith played an unerring break to 4-back although a slightly weak leave allowed Irwin an open shot at the ball at the peg. Despite hitting this Irwin did not get his break going



G.B. & U.S.A. Teams at Bowdon (L to R) Jim Audas, Britt Ruby, Charlie Smith, Jacques Fournier, Erv Peterson, Steve Comish, Jeff Dawson, Phil Cordingley, Don Gaunt, Colin Irwin, Alan Linton, Mik Mehas (crouching front).

and soon it was Smith back in control. With the potential for a delayed triple to finish the game, Smith repeated his hoop running errors of the previous day and handed the innings to Irwin by failing hoop 5. Irwin took his ball to 4-back, Smith missed the lift but Irwin did not manage to approach hoop 1 with his second ball. Both players then had a series of chances before Irwin took the game +11. The second game started with Irwin in command running to 4-back but then failing hoop 4 with his second ball while his partner was in the jaws of 4-back for the triple attempt. Smith took the innings but the players then exchanged mis-hits for a few turns until Irwin ran his 4-back ball to the peg and subsequently won +25.

On lawn 3 Mehas took control early in his game against Comish. Comish narrowly missed the lift but Mehas on his second break failed hoop 2. The out of form Comish failed to capitalise on the error immediately when he stuck in hoop 1. Then in his next turn he started to show his more usual form taking his red to 4-back. His unusual leave was blue in the jaws of hoop 1, black about 5 yards south west of hoop 2 and his red and yellow on the east boundary. Mehas lifted black to A-baulk and shot at the ball in hoop 1 but missed leaving Comish an easy break. Comish set up the break and ran hoop 1 but then played Mehas's ball in the subsequent croquet stroke. Mehas in his turn completed all three peels of the triple but over-ran his approach to rover on the final straight peel. He never took croquet again and Comish won +3. The second game was totally one sided. Comish had one anxious moment at rover when, like Mehas in the previous game he over approached on the straight peel. However his jump shot was superb. Comish himself estimates it had less than a 5% chance, as the one who refereed it I agree, but on this occasion it worked and Comish won +26TP with Mehas never taking croquet.

In the second round of singles games, Aiton and Fournier's match lived up to expectations. Fournier played well to take the first ball to 4-back. Aiton hit the lift and executed a flawless TPO. He then showed great patience and tactical ability leaving Fournier no chance in the 3-ball ending winning +13TPO. In the

second game Fournier again won the opening but failed hoop 2 allowing Aiton to go on to win +15.

On lawn 2 Cordingley played Osborn. In both games Osborn took the lead but Cordingley came back in both taking the first +6TP and the second +8. On lawn 1 (Gaunt v. Ruby) Ruby took a convincing first game +25 but in the error-prone second Gaunt fought back to win +14. Play was suspended for the day before the third decider was played.

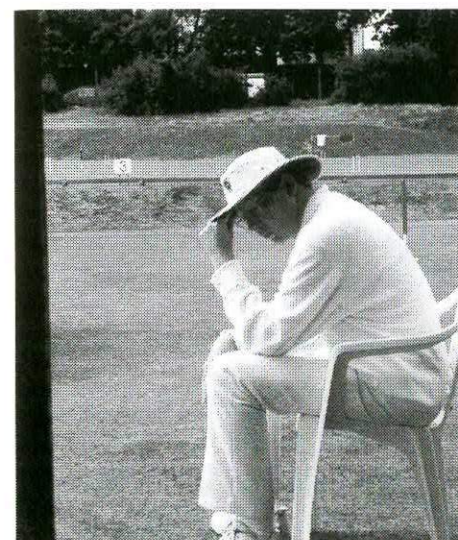
Wednesday saw play in the second round of doubles. Sad news met the teams' arrival at the courts as Keith Aiton had to withdraw from the tournament because of his mother's death. Bowdon local Alan Linton stepped in to take Keith's place in the GB team partnering Cordingley against Smith and Fournier.

It took Linton some time to settle down but when he did he took his break to the peg. Nerves again took hold on the leave but Cordingley eventually took the game for Britain +11. The second game was closely fought before the British pair took it +5.

On lawn 2 (Comish and Dawson v. Audas and Ruby) again it was the US pair with the early lead and the GB pair struggling to catch up. Audas missed his peg out and Dawson had several chances to take the first game but it was Ruby who eventually took it for the US. The second was also closely fought and again the British pair failed to make most of their chances with Audas and Ruby taking it for the US by winning +4.

On lawn 1 (Gaunt and Irwin v. Mehas and Osborn) Osborn took the first ball to 4-back soon followed by Irwin. Neither side managed to make further progress for a while until Gaunt seemed to find his form and played steadily round to the peg for Irwin to then finish. The second game saw Osborn and Mehas in control. Again Osborn was first to 4-back then Gaunt failed hoop 2. Later Irwin ran to 4-back before Mehas played a controlled triple but then failed a 10 foot peg out putting the croquet ball off the court. Gaunt then executed a tidy triple winning +2TP for the British pair to take the match.

Gaunt and Ruby's unfinished match from Tuesday resumed but Gaunt was unable to repeat



A worried GB captain, Steve Comish, ponders the day's problems.

his winning play and Ruby took the third game convincingly +17.

With the match score at GB 7 - US 5, it was back to singles on Thursday. On lawn 1 the Irwin v. Osborn match was dominated by Irwin. His +26TP in the first was quick and painless. In the second Osborn got a ball to 4-back. Irwin again executed all the peels of his triple but could not make the peg out. Osborn got to peg and made 6 with his other ball when he was hampered and Irwin hit in to finish.

On lawn 2 Dawson managed to find his form beating Ruby narrowly in the first (+3TP) and decisively (+26) in the second. In a mirror image on lawn 3, Gaunt took his first against Audas decisively (+26) and his second narrowly (+2). This put the British in a commanding 10-5 lead in the series needing only one match from the remaining 3 singles to win with a day to spare.

The number 1 contest between Comish and Fournier was on lawn 1. The first game was a faultless +17TP to Comish. The second swung Fournier's way (+8) and the decider was entirely Fournier's (+26).

Linton in his first singles played the US number 2 Mehas. Linton fought doggedly to take the first +3 but was outclassed in the second with Mehas playing defensively and forcing Linton to take chances that did not come off. Play was suspended for the day with the third decider still to be played.

On lawn 3 Cordingley and Smith both had

chances but both made errors in their first with Smith eventually taking it for the US +3. In the second Smith was well ahead on 4 and peg with the innings when Cordingley took what might have been his last shot and hit in before play was suspended and the game pegged down.

So Friday morning saw GB still needing one match to win the series with the US team needing to win all three remaining doubles plus the two unfinished singles. GB captain Comish was nervous. He and Dawson had lost both of their previous doubles but this time they made none of their previous errors taking the first +17 from Mehas and Osborn. In the second the GB captain sealed the series completing a triple despite a nervous moment after 3 when the 4-back peel hung and he made the hampered roquet on the escape ball.

Linton and Cordingley also took their match from Audas and Ruby in two games but Gaunt and Irwin dropped their first by the narrowest possible +1 to Smith and Fournier and their second was also taken by the Americans +14.

Once the doubles was over, Linton and Mehas played the decider of their singles match. With the pressure off, Linton could be more adventurous and Mehas made mistakes allowing Linton to take the game and be undefeated in the series. Not bad for a substitute!

Cordingley and Smith also continued their pegged down second game. Smith made no more hoops and Cordingley won the second +9. Their third deciding game was over quickly with a triple from Cordingley.

The final score line of GB 14 - US 7 makes the series look like a comfortable win for the Great Britain team. However this is not fair to the US squad. Often the US players won the openings and were ahead in the games only for the GB players to fight their way back in. Gaunt's +2TP in his doubles with Irwin against Mehas and Osborn and his +2 singles against Audas are notable examples of games that could have gone to the US. In all, 20 games were won by 10 or less points. GB took 13 of these and the US took only 7.

I think temperament and mental attitude were significant here. The Great Britain team as clear favourites always believed they would win the series. So even when the US players were ahead in a game, the GB players had the mental approach to come back while the US players did not show the same tenacity and felt themselves more under pressure.

For players of this class there were very few triples completed. GB had 8 (3 by Comish, 2 by Cordingley, 1 each by Gaunt and Irwin, and a TPO by Aiton) but for the US there was only one successful



Martin Grainger-Brown presents Steve Comish with the Solomon Trophy

one by Smith. Errors were far more common. Mid way through the event we noted that there had been nearly as many failed peg outs as completed triples although this balance was redressed in the last two days. Nevertheless the overall error rate was high. After a wet June the Bowdon lawns were not difficult though the US players found lawn 3 challenging. The hoops were firmly set and errors at hoops were all too common. Perhaps the GB tendency to more precision on hoop approaches was a decisive factor.

Overall though the standard of US play continues to improve. Better finishing could soon yield a different result.

Finally a footnote of thanks to goes from all of the players to Bowdon Croquet Club. Erv Peterson and Steve Comish at the presentation both expressed their thanks to Bowdon for the use of their lawn, their hospitality to the teams, their friendliness and importantly, their interest in croquet. As a Bowdon member my message to the players is - we enjoyed having you all here, come back soon.

Results (GB names first):

Comish & Dawson lost to Smith & Fournier +25, -8, -17TP
Aiton & Cordingley lost to Mehas & Osborn -15, -24
Gaunt & Irwin beat Audas & Ruby +15, +13
Dawson lost to Audas -5, -20
Irwin beat Smith +11, +25
Comish beat Mehas +3, +26TP
Gaunt lost to Ruby -23, +14, -17
Cordingley beat Osborn +6TP, +8
Aiton beat Fournier +13TPO, +8
Gaunt & Irwin beat Mehas & Osborn +17, +2TP
Comish & Dawson lost to Audas & Ruby -2, -4
Linton & Cordingley beat Smith & Fournier +11, +5
Irwin beat Osborn +26TP, +8
Dawson beat Ruby +3TP, +26
Gaunt beat Audas +26, +2
Comish lost to Fournier +17TP, -8, -26
Linton beat Mehas +3, -21, +7
Cordingley beat Smith -3, +9, +18TP
Linton & Cordingley beat Audas & Ruby +10, +8
Gaunt & Irwin lost to Smith & Fournier -1, -14
Comish & Dawson beat Mehas & Osborn +17, +25TP

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The 1998 National Junior Championships

Nailsea July 23 - 25

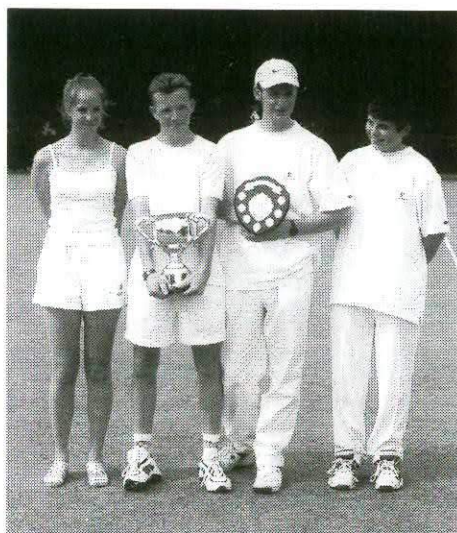
Report & photo by Ray Ransom

My first recollection of Nailsea, from a Longman cup match in the mid 1980's, was that it rained continually, there was no shelter to eat lunch and that the lawns had been constructed with two streams running through the playing areas. Well things have changed. There was not a drop of rain to disrupt play at the Junior Championships, the lawns have been levelled and there is a new pavilion which will leave most croquet clubs drooling at the mouth. So my early experiences could not have been a factor in the low entry for the tournament. Perhaps it was the threat of being barbecued by falling overhead power lines or an alternative eradication at the hands of Kristian Chambers which kept them away. We may never know but there must be more than 4 who were eligible and available.

With only one person eligible for the 'C' Class and only one entrant for the 'B' Class, these events were not held. In order to fill the 3 days allocated for the event, I decided to forgo the usual format and play the Championship as a double American block and the handicap as a block. This would mean the 3 entered for the handicap event each playing 9 games over the 3 days, a prospect which would worry me at some tournaments, but not at the Junior Championships.

In the first of the handicap games, Rachel Scott looked as though her bisques might see her through but they ran out too quickly and David Matthews pulled ahead. Although Rachel recovered some lost ground, David held on to win a close game. David's next game was against James Mackay. James' play was suffering from too much body movement (perhaps influenced by his Counties partnership with Ian Burrige) and as a result he was missing roquets and rushes. He also failed to see classic opportunities to use his bisques and as a result lost convincingly. The final game in the handicap, between James and Rachel, turned out to be the most exciting with first one then the other drawing ahead. With about 15 minutes to go James reached the peg but managed to peg out only one ball, leaving Rachel with both balls together. Careful play, leaving James well away from the peg, saw her make the final hoops and finish with 4 minutes to spare. On the day David Matthews was a deserved winner of the event.

In the Championship it soon became clear that Kris Chambers was anxious to retain the trophy. Having shed the burden of GCSE exams he played with a relaxation and fluency I have not seen in him in previous years at the Juniors. In his first game against James, he managed the 3 peels of a delayed triple but carelessly roqueted his partner ball after running rover. The second of his games, against Rachel, was similar but after the 3 peels he failed a short



Rachel Scott, Kristian Chambers, David Matthews and James Mackay.

peg out. His second game against James saw him complete his first tournament triple on the sixth turn in just over 40 minutes.

As in the Handicap, the closest and most exciting games were between James and Rachel, both players showing good potential. Rachel came out top in both by +1 on time, the only game to go to time, and +5.

Kristian won all 6 games in an average time of 56 minutes and dropped only 17 points in the process to take the Championship for the third time in a row. It was a pity that Kris was not adequately tested during the 3 days, it would have been interesting to see how he responded to more pressure.

The Challenge & Gilbey Tournament

Nottingham 16 - 19 July

Report & photo by Beatrice McGlen

After weeks of miserable, cold and windy weather the sun on Thursday morning was almost overpowering. The lawns at Nottingham were surprisingly quick and both visitors and members struggled to demonstrate their best croquet to begin with. The field was rather disappointing with 18 players for the four day mixed handicap and level tournament, with the handicap range from 1 to 20.

The Gilbey handicap competition was played as an Egyptian and the first day was devoted entirely to handicap play. By the close Mark Roberts was unbeaten on 3/3. Friday dawned wet, served us right for complaining, but it did improve. The Challenge competitions were started and the manager, Gordon Hopewell, decided that all three blocks would play to advanced rules. This was a welcomed change for the higher handicapped players, although there had to be a quick explanation of the rules to at least one novice. A few lift shots were forgotten but even players in the Men's & Women's have been known to forget lift shots!

Both competitions ran concurrently until

C.A. Events '98

Sunday, smoothed on their way by relaxed management, pleasant weather and excellent food provided by club members, Tim and Hilary Smith. By Sunday lunchtime the A and B blocks had clear winners in Richard White and David Brydon respectively, but the C block had a three way tie with Richard Beney, Roger Berkley and Jed Allen all on 4/5 wins. An advanced 14 point play-off was the chosen tie breaker. Roger and Richard drew lots to play first. Richard won and then played Jed for the trophy. Jed, who only started to play this season, was the narrow victor.

The Gilbey Goblet was won by Beatrice McGlen who, ironically got a handicap increase at the end of the tournament.

The trophies for this tournament are magnificent, as you can see in the photograph. If you fancy one of them on your mantelpiece next year, it would be lovely to see a few more competitors, so make a note now.



(L to R) David Brydon, Richard White, Beatrice McGlen and Jed Allen with the Challenge & Gilbey trophies.

The Veterans' Championship

Budleigh Salterton, 20 - 25 July

Report by Rex Davis

The blue skies of Devon were in evidence only from Thursday of the week when 40 veterans from 17 clubs gathered to contest the eight CA trophies on offer. While a convivial atmosphere prevailed as usual, and the confrontations were not in the class of the New Zealand Haka, more than one spectator was heard to remark mature loss of athletic edge does not blunt the competitive spirit in croquet. We may thus sympathise with those unlucky players



Hamish Hall, the 1998 Veterans' Champion, pictured with William Ormerod at Bristol CC, the club where William began his playing career fifty years ago.

who did not feel up to participating as much as they would have liked.

The excellent facilities at Budleigh Salterton were matched by the hospitality of the host club, which included a wide choice of luncheon dishes at budget prices, and drinks at both the clubhouse and pavilion at popular times. Nine active lawns enabled double banked play to be confined, with minor exceptions, to two sessions per day, and the manager laid on a handicap Egyptian event for those wishing for extra games.

A successful tournament owes a great deal to the manager, and Paul Macdonald demonstrated once again that a patient and affable attitude can be combined with a rigorous attention to detail that leaves everyone happy.

The handicap events at the Veterans are the Longman Trophies for doubles, the Meredith Cup for unrestricted singles, and the Strickland Cup for singles. Advanced play is headed by the open Rothwell Challenge Cup for the Veterans Championship, backed up by the Felixstowe Cup as a class event. The over 70's Championship for a glass goblet was backed up by a class event for a glass tumbler. All events were keenly contested, but the success of the fourfold class arrangement for advanced play is clearly dependent upon the numbers entering each year.

Monday's play was devoted to the opening rounds of the big XYZ format for the Meredith Cup. By Saturday's final, this hardfought perennial had progressed through dramas and surprises, leaving only two men in the quarter-finalists. Conceding 9 bisques to Leonard Ainsworth in the final, Dorothy Miller displayed all her skill and determination to win by +12. The applause for the game recognised a

lady winner for only the 3rd time since the inception of this event in 1971. The Y and Z sections were won by Diana Brothers and Rowland Henderson respectively.

Tuesday morning again brought out the jumpers and rainwear, and the advanced play events got under way in blocks of 4 or 5, together with the handicap singles on the Swiss system. The damp weather did not dampen keen play, but the enjoyment was certainly heightened by the sunny days at the end of the week. Unshakable steady play by Hamish Hall was rewarded by a full series of wins that proclaimed him the Veterans Champion for 1998, with Brian Teague the runner-up. In the over 70's Championship the last game of the block saw David Purdon playing Rex Davis. This cliffhanger went finally +1T to David, who neatly wrapped up his victory with a good win of 18 in the decider, to take the Glass Goblet.

The advanced play singles class event for the Felixstowe Cup was decided between two well matched Sussex ladies who led the block. Mrs Jean Nash, last year's winner, conceded victory to Mrs Diana Brothers who showed her steel with a play-off score of +14 -8T +19. In the over 70's advanced play class event for the Glass Tumbler, the final became a local derby match between the Sidmouth clubmates, Rowland Henderson and Les Toye, with Rowland winning +9T +6T.

The remaining handicap singles contest was played in Swiss format. This was won by Len Nash with 4 wins, chased by Leonard Ainsworth, Alan Oldham and Mrs Jean Birdseye, who all had 3. It might be noted by those highish bisquers who avoid tournaments through shyness, that the average handicap of the four winners was 15. Yet all entrants enjoyed themselves and take away poignant memories of those make or break shots for which the game of croquet, at all levels, offers either glowing reward or draconian punishment.

The commencement of the handicap doubles on Wednesday saw a steady drizzle and overcast sky. The field was taken by 18 pairs in this enjoyable but demanding form of play. Great deeds were done by those eliminated, but not quite enough to displace the eventual winners of the Sussex Trugs, Nigel Gray and Leonard Ainsworth. Quite fittingly, the home team of David Purdon and Joyce Goodhart produced the sort of teamwork that made them runners-up in an extremely close and tense finish. The Y division of this knockout event, for the Gilbert Spoons, was won by Esme and Ted Owen from Sidmouth.

The extra Egyptian event was won by the tireless Jeane Ackermann, who beat the equally tireless Lionel Wharrad.

The 1999 Veterans Championship will be played at Southwick in Sussex. Players at any standard who have achieved the chronological age of 65 or over are urged to hobble along to join the regulars who would never wish to miss the cut and thrust of this popular annual event.

British Open Championships

Hurlingham and Parson's Green

12-19 July

Report by Richard Hilditch

Robert Fulford won, no surprise there, indeed together with Chris Clarke he also won the doubles. However there were quite a few interesting events along the way including some excellent performances that I'd like to share with you.

More than anything this event marked the coming of age of the United States players in the world scene. Although they had previously done well at the Sonoma world croquet championship, this was the first time that their players had really looked to be in contention in international competition abroad. Two players from the Solomon trophy team, Jacques Fournier and Mik Mehas stayed on the extra week and, one must assume, exceeded their wildest dreams in taking home the runners up and plate trophies respectively. I would venture to say that any sport in which the USA can compete will be better off than a sport without them.

The week started with quite strong rain falling onto already damp lawns and overnight rain, overcast conditions and high humidity kept the lawns playing much slower than usual. In addition this made the hoops very difficult to get firm so that it was quite simple to smash or even stroke one's way through from awkward angles.

This year the entry was down again to 37. Although this does not make for a poor event it will be necessary for the tournament committee to consider this drop despite attempts to bolster support. As a comparison the years from 1984 through 1994 never had less than 48 entries.

The pick of the first round draw saw David Openshaw taking on Phil Cordingley. The match was spoiled by the rain but David was able to convert his opportunities better than Phil in a scrappy encounter.

Monday saw the return after many years' absence of Adrian Saurin, no longer as small as he was when he played at the age of 14. Unfortunately he had been drawn against Robert Fulford the number one seed and after taking off the lawn in the first game he did not offer enough resistance. Also returning after a long absence was Roger Tribe who last played before his opponent Jacques Fournier was even born; Jacques is only 16. Roger made just enough errors to allow Jacques to run out as an untidy victor. Another player making his Opens debut was Matthew Burrow (18) from Jersey who unfortunately was to succumb to Fulford in the second round. The presence of these two youngsters only served to expose the state of mainland croquet in Britain with no strong young players.

Over on the cricket pitch Pete Trimmer beat Steve Comish exactly as he did at this stage last year. Neither player made an error and Pete won the hitting contest getting a couple of triples to knock out the first of the seeds. Also struggling

on the cricket pitch was David Openshaw who was very lucky to win his first game by +1 when his opponent Gary Bennett rolled up to the peg and had one ball off with Openshaw only half way round.

The second round saw further upsets as David Maugham was again knocked out of the Opens on lawn 9, this time by Jacques Fournier. Mark Avery and Jeff Dawson produced a tight 3 triple match which Mark won in the third +3tp after Jeff failed to finish his triple. An even better match was in progress between David Openshaw and Pete Trimmer. In each game players hit in the 3rd and 4th turns and after dropping the first game to a 6th turn triple David narrowly missed finishing the next in the 6th turn too. He corrected his error to win the third game with a 6th turn triple.

Down on lawn 1 Stephen Mulliner was playing Mik Mehas and managed to get himself into trouble with wrong balls (as he so often has in the past). Stephen rushed a ball from corner 2 towards hoop 2 and picked up his partner ball that was nearby. Before taking croquet he noticed that his shot after hoop 2 was going to be longer than expected and convinced himself that he had played with the wrong ball in a previous take-off. He explained things to Mik and placed the balls in contact and placed his clip and left the lawn. Just before Mik played his stroke George Noble (a spectator referee) intervened to say that Stephen had not done the correct thing and that in fact his turn should not have ended (the ball was misplaced). What was to be done? Stephen found himself in a slightly awkward position since he was referee of tournament and this was the sort of thing that the ROT would normally have to rule on. He decided that the limit of claims for the misplaced ball had passed as he had left the lawn and so his turn had ended. Mik was allowed to continue play. Of course George could have intervened as soon as Stephen spotted that there was a problem but he turned away assuming that Stephen would have corrected it in the right way.

With the quarter-finalists readied in the singles attention turned to the doubles where there were few surprises. Holders Reg Bamford and Stephen Mulliner were delayed in starting their match as George Noble had to be in new Covent Garden where the minister was making a visit prior to the closure. Apparently it was actually very amicable and he did not come back covered in tomatoes. The delay was only brief as Reg and Stephen only conceded 3 hoops. The most spectacular result was achieved by Steve Comish and David Maugham against Alex Leggate and Andy Symons. When one of the oppos stuck in 2-back David checked with his partner before calmly quintupling the ball out. It must be difficult to say no to Maugham; in this case they had already won the first game comfortably and so Steve was probably happy to give him his head. Tony Mrozinski and Chris Williams did well to reach the semi-finals beating Mark Avery playing with a reliable Alex Jardine (replacing Keith Aiton who had had to withdraw from the tournament), Tony produced a very

adventurous TP in the third as Avery looked on with disbelief. Clarke and Fulford were careful rather than spectacular as Chris had to be nursed round since he had picked up a viral infection (possibly from me).

Over in the plate Jeff Dawson produced a nice 4th turn TPO against Phil Cordingley but then spoiled it by splitting a ball off the lawn in a finishing break. As I walked past lawn 7 going to Parson's Green I noticed that David Maugham and Mik Mehas were having a two ball game (David had done a TPO and pegged both balls out). As I returned I found that both players had reached penultimate and were lurking on opposite boundaries unwilling to approach the hoop or shoot at each other. This constituted an impasse, how would we get the game finished (there was a 3.5 hour time limit but if it passed the players would still be level)? I fetched the ROT and he gave the following ruling. Each player would take 5 shots at the peg from a side boundary (alternately) like a football penalty shoot out. The winner would advance one of the clips and select whether to go first or second from baulk. As expected David won this shoot out 2-1 without taking his last shot. He advanced his clip and went second. Mik got in and made both his hoops but missed David's ball from 7 yards. David made his hoop, trickled to the peg and Mik narrowly missed for a +1 TPO score.

Friday saw the singles resume with the best of 5 quarter finals including a classic rematch between David Openshaw and Stephen Mulliner of a quarter final match in the 1989 world championships. Naturally I allowed (or forced) them to play on lawn 4 again. This match saw David regaining some of the form that he had in 1989 and he was able to beat Steve (as he was then called) by a score of 3-1 including a 5th turn triple in the last game. Throughout David was able to hit in and Stephen had trouble with his shots, particularly down the east boundary. The match between Reg Bamford and Jacques Fournier was a close affair with each player playing well at times and making errors at times. It went all the way to the 5th game where Jacques sealed it with his first triple of the match. Mark Avery was able to take advantage of Chris Clarke's virus, but still played well to get his 3 triples to Chris's 1. Robert Fulford was trying sextuples against Colin Southern but did not complete any, Colin had the satisfaction of hitting the tea lady shot from hoop 1 to corner 3 in the first game. Each time he got control however Robert just hit back in.

The semi-finals saw Fournier claim another scalp of a previous Open's winner as he despatched a very below par Avery in 3 straight games. Fulford beat Openshaw in 3 straight games playing virtually perfectly, winning in 5, 6 and 5 turns only. David actually played well himself hitting a couple of long shots but was eclipsed by the best player playing like Michael Jordan.

The top seeds Clarke and Fulford and Comish and Maugham found themselves in the doubles final without too much trouble. Following on from his performance in the singles

it was not surprising to see Robert still playing like a master, hitting at will and finishing delayed triples without breaking sweat. Chris too had recovered from his infection and hit a lift and did a TP. Combined with an error from David Maugham, Clarke and Fulford were able to win with 3 straight triples to regain the title that they feel belongs to them in the 90s.

The final day produced the best of the weather for a modest crowd, towards the end of the day we could feel the lawns hardening up so we could see what we had missed all week. As an experiment I decided to make the players play a best of 7 match for the final (this has been used a couple of times before in lesser events). It seems that this was not a great idea, either one player will run away with it and tire himself and the spectators out or it will go on too long for everyone. Next year I think we will revert to best of 5 starting a little later in the day.

The match itself was historic for more reasons than the number of games to be played. At 16 Jacques was the youngest contestant and more importantly he was the first representative of the USA. It was disappointing that this had not drawn more media interest. The match saw Robert carry on from his semi-final form with strong hitting openings and controlled triple peels from any position of the balls. Robert opened with a super shot ball 11 yards up from A baulk 2 yards west of hoop 5. Jacques missed it and Robert hit and went to 4-back finishing with a TP on the 5th turn. The second game saw Robert going second and using a duffer tice (near hoop 6) to get a ball round on the 4th turn. Jacques hit the lift but showed increasing nerves misapproaching hoops until he failed at the 5th allowing Robert to finish on the 6th turn. The third game also went to Robert on the 7th turn. At three nil the players stopped for lunch, but it was clear that there was only one possible winner. The fourth game saw an unusual standard tice opening that satisfied the older spectators. It also brought the first error from Robert as he failed hoop 1 after rolling up from corner 1 to about 18 inches at 10 degrees. This game lasted an enormous 12 turns before Robert completed his fourth TP. Jacques must not get disheartened by the result, Robert would have beaten anyone in the world on that lawn on that day.

The plate was run with the same format as last year, a 9 round progressive Swiss leading to a knockout with 4 players getting two lives. This year's top 4 did not last very long, Matthew Burrow and Tony Mrozinski lost both their games and only Jeff Dawson and Steve Comish survived to the final day. The winner however was Mik Mehas who included a revenge win over David Maugham as he beat Michael Heap in a final that was typical of his play. He is careful to the point of slowness and hits very well to recover from any error that he happens to make. It is likely that we will change the plate format again next year to try and get more games for players who in the current format are waiting for others playing doubles matches.

Results

Singles round 1:
Gale bt Coles +16, -3, +26tp; Najarian bt Aiton* w/o; Openshaw bt Cordingley +15, +17; Mehas bt Sheraton-Davis +26, +22; Maugham* bt Burridge +17, +26tp; Patmore bt Guest +11, +24. Singles round 2: Fulford* bt

Adrian Saurin +22tp, +10tpo; Burrow bt Gale +14tp, +16; Southern bt Jardine +26, +5; Leggate bt Najarian +10tpo, +5; Trimmer bt Comish* +17tp, +26tp; Openshaw bt Bennett +1, +13; Mulliner* bt Williams +24tp, +11tpo; Mehas bt Vincent +26, +26tp; Fournier bt Tribe +9, +8; Maugham* bt Symons +26tp, +24tp; Heap bt Healy +14, +23; Bamford* bt Wiggins +22tp, +19tp; Avery* bt Dawson +24tp, -26tp, +3tp; Noble bt Browne -26, +3, +17tp; Clarke* bt Farthing +22tp, -17, +26tp; Mrozinski bt Patmore +4, +26tp. Singles round 3: Fulford bt Burrow +17tp, +24tp; Southern bt Leggate +21, -19, +7; Openshaw bt Trimmer -26tp, +24, +26tp; Mulliner bt Mehas +13tp, +13; Fournier bt Maugham +26tp, +26tp; Bamford bt Heap +26tp, +12tp; Avery bt Noble +3tp, +16; Clarke bt Mrozinski -17, +25, +26. Quarter-Finals: Fulford bt Southern +17, +23, +26tp; Openshaw bt Mulliner +16, +26tp, -25tp, +26tp; Fournier bt Bamford -25tp, +15, -25tp, +17, +24tp; Avery bt Clarke +23tp, +26tp, -17tp, +26tp. Semi-Finals: Fulford bt Openshaw +17tp, +26tp, +26tp; Fournier bt Avery +25, +23, +17tp. Final: Fulford bt Fournier +26tp, +22tp, +25tp, +26tp. Doubles - Round 1: Gale/Meas bt Bennett/Southern +1, +25tp(m) Round 2: Clarke/Fulford bt Burrow/Najarian +26tp(c), -5, +21; Farthing/Patmore bt Cordingley/Trimmer +24tp(p), -26tp(c), +12; Mrozinski/Williams bt Burridge/Heap +11, -4tp(m), +26; Avery/Jardine bt Browne/Guest +17, +16tp(a); Bamford/Mulliner bt Noble/Vincent +23, +22tp(b); Fournier/Openshaw bt Healy/Sheraton-Davis +23, +23; Gale/Meas bt Dawson/Wiggins +3, -26, +8; Comish/Maugham bt Leggate/Symons +26tp(m), +13qnp(m). Quarter-Finals: Clarke/Fulford bt Farthing/Patmore +7tp(f), +24tp(f); Mrozinski/Williams bt Avery/Jardine +24tp(m), -16tp(a), +21tp(m); Bamford/Mulliner bt Fournier/Openshaw +25tp(b), +10tpo(b); Comish/Maugham bt Gale/Meas +14, +26tp(c) Semi-Finals: Clarke/Fulford bt Mrozinski/Williams +6, +23; Comish/Maugham bt Bamford/Mulliner +15, +14tp(c). Final: Clarke/Fulford bt Comish/Maugham +26tp(c), +26tp(f), +17tp(f). Plate Event: Mike Mehas (USA) bt Michael Heap +16.

The Longman Bowl Southport 26 - 30 August

Report by Eileen Magee

'Nobody here but us chickens'

Heard but not seen are the hens behind the bushes to the rear of the Southport and Birkdale Croquet club. From time



Kathleen Priestley & Gail Curry, winners of the 'Ladies Week' events.

to time one heard general purpose clucking, through half-strangled crowing to the loud announcement of a successful laying endeavour.

The unfeathered birds in front of the bushes to the fore of the clubhouse were far more restrained in their utterances.

It had been planned to offer single banking this year by bringing into use part of a grassed area nearby, and a great deal of effort had been expended on this plan. However after two days it was agreed that everyone would take their turn in double banking on a fifth lawn in front of the club provided

rain did not cause flooding. Apart from one heavy shower, the weather was fine and shorts were much in evidence.

Now that the scene is set and the weather forecast given, onto the players. Gene Mears displayed precision shooting and hooprunning whilst Eileen Magee sparked occasionally but was more often somewhat lacklustre. Although champion of the holiday dominoes competition, Audrey Whitaker did not always draw on her full capabilities on the lawns. Manager, Diana Williamson was stylish in her play and only just missed out on some victories, whilst Christine Constable's chip and charge method of play yielded good results. But it was Kathleen Priestley, newcomer to the event, who played consistently well, apart from a little hesitancy in her first game, to enable her to lift the Longman Bowl on her first attempt.

- 1) Kathleen Priestley 8 wins - Magee +2 +15, Mears +7 +14, Whitaker +6 +12, Williamson +25 +20.
- 2) Christine Constable 6 wins - Magee +8, Mears +5 +2, Williamson +12, Priestley +12 +9.
- 3) Diana Williamson 5 wins - Constable +18, Magee +17, Mears +13, Whitaker +9 +11.
- 4=) Eileen Magee 4 wins - Constable +5, Whitaker +9 +23, Williamson +3.
- 4=) Audrey Whitaker 4 wins - Constable +4 +12, Mears +7 +3.
- 6) Gene Mears 3 wins - Magee +6 +13, Williamson +12.

The Barlow Bowl Southport 26 - 30 August

Report by Sarah Burrow

Southport drizzle greeted the travellers from near and far, thankfully, however, the first day of competition saw a great improvement in the weather which soon dried



Longman Bowl competitors (L to R Diana Williamson, Kathleen Priestley, Christine Constable, Audrey Whitaker, Gene Mears and Eileen Magee)

out the players and lawns alike. The competition was held in Victoria Park, Southport in a beautiful setting with Clubhouse and lawns tucked neatly away behind mature hedges.

As the Longman Bowl event was being played at the same time, it was necessary to utilise the two outside lawns to avoid double banking. Personally a little triple banking would have been ideal, being unused to softer lawns which were prone to sprouting daisies and the odd dandelion over the daylight hours. These two pinnacles of playing surfaces soon became fondly known as the "Trampolines", the other names being wholly unrepeatable, and were thankfully abandoned on day three.

Newcomers to this year's event were Bradforth and Burrow; a warm welcome from all the old hands was extended on the first morning and battle commenced, unless you were on a trampoline which required more attention and delayed the start by 1 hour. The difficult conditions on the outside lawn combined with the delay saw the game being pegged down causing late afternoon session starts for four players.

Foolish old moi had already received a telling off from the Holder, how was I to know I wasn't meant to toss a coin for start? and I had won!!!! Huh, thought I, good start here. Believing the sessions to be best of three I hurtled off thinking of getting all the necessary games in before lunch, was lucky to dispose of Bo in around 90 minutes, only to find no best of anything and 4.5 hours to wait. Needless to say a fine lunch, a beer or three, a quiet snooze and jet lag ensured I finished the day level after losing to Louise -8.

Games progressed and after day two Gail was on four wins with Pauline and Frances on three. I was yet to play the walkman toting Gail and decided to lay the foundations for at least a fair attempt. A quiet evening out on the town ending with a marathon dominoes session



Barlow Bowl Competitors (L to R) Pauline Healy, Frances Ransom, Sarah Burrow, Bo Harris, Gail Curry and Louise Bradforth.

worked a treat. The following morning a below par Curry faced a "determined not to deem" Burrow. My attacking play being rewarded with several fortunate hit-ins enabled me to sneak a valuable victory. This was to be the only game lost by Gail who continued throughout the rest of the competition in fine form but strangely loath to partake in dominoes!!!

Many games ended up with someone merrily bashing their only surviving ball around the lawn in the hope of hitting something useful. Pauline only needed a couple of attempts before dousing her opponent's hopes and dreams with long shots onto the peg. She is a marvellous shot and I found it difficult trying not to leave her close but soon gave up, she even hit corner to corner! One notable finale was the winning turn of a one ball finish by Louise. Hit the 4 back lift, opponent on penult, rolled up to two back and finished. A marvellous turn on Trampoline 1, final roll from penult found Louise's ball plumb in rover, curtains Frances!

Bo found some superb form over the last two days of the Tournament, I was impressed with her style and grace as I watched her glide around to a beat me +6 in our return match. Bo has been a mainstay of this event for many years and I hope to meet her again in the future, she made us first timers very welcome and I thank her.

During the afternoons of the last two

Contd. from page 4

wonder how many of you read the article in the Daily Express about Noel Gallagher of the pop group Oasis and his wife who play croquet for relaxation. This produced an almost unbelievable response from the media and we finished with three TV interviews and four radio interviews for myself and other members of the Association. We had a very good article about croquet in 'Country Life'. A producer for Meridian TV has filmed a series of interviews and action shots at Southwick for his 'Day Out' series which will be shown during October. Overall this is a much better coverage than we have received previously and I would ask you all at club level to keep sending those reports on club events into your local papers to ensure we take every opportunity possible of keeping croquet in the public eye.

Bill Arliss

days the Southport & B CC spared no expense and provided a marvellous air display to entertain us during play. I thought this a little flash of them and a lot of ladies found the noise quite off-putting but none of us liked to complain. At least the planes drowned the sound of the crowing cockerels. Many of us would have willingly drowned them also but felt we ought to behave.

Talking about behaviour, at these types of things there is always someone who lets the side down, and for once it wasn't me! In fact it was a Longman Bowler, no names mentioned, and

why not you ask? Oh all right then, it was KATH FROM PARKSTONE who managed to have us ejected from a salubrious drinking establishment for being improperly dressed! The shame, can you imagine it? Still this had never been experienced by Audrey before so she quite enjoyed it!

I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Southport, everything was well organised from the lawns to the lunches. Many thanks to all those involved.

Congratulations to Gail for winning the Barlow Bowl for about the millionth time, well done but watch yourself, next year I'm out to get you! Congrats also to Kath for winning the Longman Bowl at her first attempt, don't forget to bring you long skirt next year!

1) Gail Curry 9 wins - Bradforth +26 +5, Burrows +17, Harris +26 +18, Healy +16 +13, Ransom +16 +25.

2=) Sarah Burrow 5 wins - Curry +11, Bradforth +8, Harris +22, Healy +1, Ransom +4.

2=) Pauline Healy 5 wins - Bradforth +10, Burrow +12, Harris +8, Ransom +15 +24.

2=) Louise Bradforth 5 wins - Burrow +8, Harris +18 +7, Healy +4, Ransom +1.

5=) Frances Ransom 3 wins - Bradforth +5, Burrow +12, Harris +21.

5=) Bo Harris 3 wins - Burrow +6, Healy +17, Ransom +14.

TIMES PAST

The Gazette of September 1948 reports with great enthusiasm an early success for John Solomon, in his first full season, at the Hurlingham tournament:

"The result of the Longworth Cup must, long before these lines are read, have been known to the world as it was given in the Stop Press of a London evening paper, as well as a photograph of the two finalists. It is difficult to know to whom one's congratulations should go; probably, the winner must get the most, Mr John Solomon, aged 16.

But at the age of 83, Miss L Elphinstone-Stone is surely entitled, though the loser, to an almost equal share of congratulations.

The record of the success of the boy Solomon by no means ends here; in fact, if it did, it might well be said, "Behold, the half was not told me." He won the handicap Singles from a field of 57, bisqued at 7. En route to the final, it was sad to find his mother among his victims; judging by the score, Mrs Solomon - and earlier, Mr Hodges - went nearer to stopping his progress than any of his other opponents."

Elsewhere, players were still coming to terms with the modern 'advanced' game adopted two seasons before - and apparently not yet regarding the triple as a normal tactic:

"There does not appear to be any definite conclusion in the minds of even the most experienced players as to whether the advantage of giving contact is with the giver or the receiver ... yet there are at least two first class players [one of whom was Humphrey Hicks, then in his heyday and Open Champion for the second of four consecutive years] who constantly give their opponents the choice of a lift or contact.

This giving of contact almost always happens under fixed conditions; that is to say, the striker, in his first break, goes beyond 4-back when the other three clips are still on the first hoop; yet we have not so far seen a fixed leave, showing the exact position for each of the four balls.

Perhaps, sooner or later, certain definite positions will be decided upon from which it will be deemed impossible for the opponent to get a break going; just as, before Law 44 stopped it, the cross-wire at the first hoop and the other two balls near the third corner became the accepted leave.

The giving of contact really amounts to the striker saying that in return for taking away a lift from his opponent he is making him a present of the innings. Such a gift may often prove to be a too generous one ..."

~ Obituary ~

Dr Eric Knowles 1919 - 1998

Eric, who died on August 21st, will be remembered by the many people who enjoyed croquet in his company as an example of everything that is best about such players. Winning every game was not paramount, although Eric was a shrewd tactician and stalwart team member for his clubs at Norton Hall and Middlesborough (previously at Ormesby Hall); rather, he believed that the game should have dramatic interest and be played in a friendly spirit. After war-time service in the Royal Navy, Eric joined ICI at Billingham, retiring as chief medical officer in 1975.

His interest in croquet started in the early 1950s at Norton, where notable players included Ralph Bucknall, Hywel Evans and Sam Salisbury. Eric later used his skills, patience and energy (he was a fine gardener) by constructing his own full-sized top-quality lawn in an old orchard, wearing out Reg Forth's rotovator in the process and persuading Scottish Agricultural Industries to provide grass seed. He was a keen tournament player; some people at Parkstone, Cheltenham, Edinburgh and Hunstanton may recall Eric's caravan parked next to the lawns, allowing him to look after his first wife (who, although an invalid, was not averse to criticising any wayward play!). Others in the Croquet North region, who knew him only more recently, appreciated his personal warmth and love of the game, which he was always ready to pass on.

Charles Waterfield

NEWS & INFORMATION 2

Laws statement

The following statement is issued by the Croquet Association Laws Committee and applies within the domain of the Croquet Association.

INTERPRETATION OF THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The Laws of Association Croquet provide the basic framework within which the game is played and, in particular, Part 2 - Section D ERRORS AND INTERFERENCE WITH PLAY applies to those situations that may arise inadvertently or, in the case of faults, by improper execution of a stroke.

We reject the suggestion that anything that is not specifically proscribed by the laws is therefore permissible. Attempts to gain an advantage by deliberately or persistently playing in error will be treated as blameworthy conduct and render the offender liable to disqualification. Croquet is refreshingly free from such play, and we wish it to remain so.

The Croquet Association Laws Committee will always answer queries on the laws addressed to it directly from resident Associates, provided that the problem has arisen in play or has a reasonable chance of so arising.

The International Laws Meeting is responsible for rulings that apply internationally. Although it is hoped that in due course there will be one set of interpretations and rulings that will be accepted in all countries, the present position is that national organisations may make rulings from time to time that apply only within their domain.

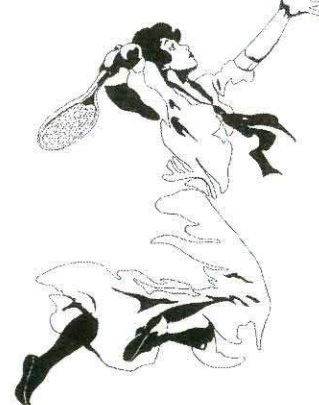
Bill Lamb, Chairman, Croquet Association Laws Committee.

Western Province '99 entries

The dates of the Western Province Tournament to be played at Rondebosch Croquet Club, Cape Town, South Africa, next year will be played from the 13th March to 20th March 1999 inclusive. Anyone wanting to enter can contact me at either:-

CAROLLE@QDATA.CO.ZA
KNOXC2@BP.COM
at my home address:
Carole Knox
Late Vintage
RustenVrede Avenue
Constantia, 7800
South Africa
Tel: +27 21 794 6567 (h)

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(UK) 0121 455 6426 (SA) 011789 5583
e-mail chrisbennett_croquet_SA_UK@yahoo.com

Letters...

Counter signing unacceptable?

Dear Editor

It was in September 1990 that I wrote a letter to *Croquet* (211) arguing in favour of replacing the existing capricious and subjective handicapping procedure with an automatic system. Following that initiative, a trial was conducted at the Cheltenham Club in 1991. It emerged that several other players had been thinking along similar lines and so there was quite widespread support for this innovation and an AHS came into operation much more rapidly than I had originally thought possible.

My opinion of its superiority is in no way diminished by the fact that it has punished my bad play by reducing my handicap from 4 to 14, whereas the old inefficient system would probably not have pushed it down much below 8, and I should still be qualified to enter events that I used to enjoy.

In my letter, there was one unfortunate and ill-considered sentence in which I said "The result would be recorded on the card and (if it were felt necessary) it could be initialled by each opponent". I subsequently repudiated that idea and argued against it, because it would have undermined the trust that makes our sport such a pleasurable and attractive activity and its practitioners such congenial company. Association croquet shares with snooker and a few other fortunate pastimes the (possibly old-fashioned but nevertheless gentlemanly) concept that players will announce any fault that they know they have committed, even when nobody else is likely to have observed their error. It is an aspect of croquet of which we have always been so proud.

I am, therefore, opposed to a revival of the suggestions that players should now be expected to sign one another's handicap cards after every game. The proposal reduces our sport to the level of (dare I say it?) golf. If I understand their procedures correctly, golfers are required to sign each other's cards at the conclusion of any competitive round. This attitude of mistrust has always seemed to me a deeply unattractive aspect of a sport whose ethics otherwise appear to be quite civilized.

For somewhat similar reasons, I have always found it mildly distasteful to be expected to sign a handicap card when I have been notified of a change, although, since this is to some extent an acknowledgement of *my own* responsibility to see that the change is reported, I have not felt sufficiently strongly to object to that particular practice.

This new suggestion, however, is an altogether more serious erosion of our standards and, if it is adopted, I give notice that I shall categorically refuse to insult my opponents by signing their handicap cards.

If this is to be the future of the AHS, then I shall regret having been responsible for its introduction. May I ask other 'pioneers' of automatic handicapping whether this is how they wish our system to develop and, if not, to join me in condemning unreservedly this sad proposal?

Roger F Wheeler

Shock horror, response!

Dear Editor

I wanted to write something in support of your position in the July editorial but having re-read it I can find nothing to add. You said it all.

I would like to know how many other people out there in croquetland feel as we do, it would be nice to hear from them through the pages of the Gazette. So come on, let us have some discussion in the November issue.

Mike Hammelev

I would like to take this opportunity to state categorically that Mr Hammelev was not paid, or indeed blackmailed into making the above contribution. Ed.

Lawn improvements

Who's hiding their light under a bushel at Budleigh Salterton? The interesting article on the back page of the May issue made no reference to the tremendous work undertaken by the club in improving the quality of the lawns over last winter.

I was there in May. My heart sank as I drew lawn 9: I could think of only one thing worse - if I had to play my good friend, Aunt Emma. But the 10 tonnes of top dressing had transformed the court, and it was a pleasure to play there. Additionally lawns 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 had had attention, and were much improved.

Some players did not share my enthusiasm for Ron Selmes' work. An opponent grumbled about bumps and boundaries - but playing on the same court, Tony Dustan-Smith duffed me up in three turns! Could there really be much to complain about?

The Budleigh Committee and Ron in

particular are to be congratulated on their efforts in improving the lawns, and further works will only increase the benefits.

Hamish Hall

Lawn expectations

Dear Editor

Referring to Smokey Eades' letter in the July Gazette, at the large club where I play we do refer to the 'lawns', and call them Lawn 1, Lawn 2 etc etc.

If one was invited to play garden croquet, the lawn could be in any condition and might have a tree in the middle and bushes at the side. But at a club one expects the lawns to be of a playable standard.

There are 'Tennis Courts', 'Bowling Greens', and 'Cricket Fields' so, surely, to differentiate from these and continue to call 'Croquet Lawns' is much to be commended, and I am glad that the Directory follows common usage amongst players!

Diana Brothers

Thank you Parkstone

Dear Editor,

May I, though the pages of the *Croquet Gazette*, thank Parkstone croquet club and in particular Charles Trimmer for all their help in making tubular ball carriers for Winchester. My wife and I had a very enjoyable weekend at Parkstone in August and whilst there I saw these very efficient ball carriers made from sewer piping. I enquired from the secretary and he introduced me to Charles who is their resident engineer member. He gave me a sketch which I have copied but I had to go round to Charles' magnificent workshop for him to show me the secret of putting in the dimples at the pipe ends to stop the balls dropping through.

Thanks again Charles, your unreserved help is very much appreciated.

Ivor Nunn

Lessons learned at Southwick summer school

Dear Editor

Normally our holidays are planned well in advance but when your step-daughter suddenly has the opportunity to go on a school trip and you find yourself with free time - what do you do? Do nothing would always be my natural choice but my wife happened on an advertisement for the Southwick Summer School. I was not quite as enthusiastic to go as she was (my handicap was approaching 12 whereas hers was 22). What would I learn? What would we do in the evenings?

In the interests of marital harmony and wishing to see my wife's croquet improve I agreed to go.

We arrived at the club for our first

coaching session. In all there were 24 participants with a wide range of handicaps. We were split into groups of 4. The manner of group selection was not clear although the organisers very wisely ensured that you were not in the same group as your spouse.

The School was well managed by David Collins, ably assisted by at least 6 A Class player coaches - apparently all volunteers, in fact each year he has more volunteer coaches than he can cope with.

Generally each day was divided into about 5 or 6 sessions of which two were used for a Swiss format short croquet competition - again carefully arranged so that spouses would not meet until at least the 5th round.

Some of the sessions were used to allow the whole group to debate the best use of bisques in the setting up of breaks. It was pleasing to discover that the coaches could not always agree, although for my money Bill Arliss' view always seemed to carry more weight. This might have had something to do with the way in which he wielded his mallet - as though it weighed no more than a feather. The thought crossed my mind that there ought to be some law covering 'menacing with mallet'.

In the short croquet competition it was inevitable that I should eventually have to play against my wife. I won the toss, put her in first, got my first ball to rover and felt sure the game was in the bag. She then hit in and used half of her bisques to take her first ball round but instead of stopping at rover she went through to the peg. I thought there might be some rule in this competition which prevented me from pegging her out but no, our coach, Bob Fewtrell, confirmed that this was not so.

"What on earth have you done that for?"

I said. "I can peg you out now if I take my ball round." "Yes, I know." She replied. "but I thought I would take the risk". "Then I shall just have to teach you a lesson won't I?" I muttered.

Bob stayed to watch and commiserate with her, explaining the seriousness of her predicament.

I took my forward ball through rover and pegged her out easily. By this time the situation had caught the attention of David Collins and Bill Arliss who seemed highly amused by this dastardly deed of 'pegging your wife out'. I was made to feel a real heel. However as I left the lawn, I felt pretty secure - she only had a couple of bisques and her second ball was still on hoop 1.

She used one bisque to hit in and then started a three ball break. The three coaches who watched the ensuing play willed her through every hoop, taking great pleasure in my discomfort and, yes, she won the game easily, going on to win the competition.

So what did we learn? Well, most importantly never underestimate the importance of instruction and of practice. We learned a great deal about both technique and strategy and had plenty of practice to consolidate the lessons. All too often it is too tempting to play rather than to take time out to practise. Also never underestimate your wife!

In all the Southwick Summer School provided a really enjoyable break. The organisation was excellent - as were the catering arrangements under the direction of Pam Arliss. Everyone was patient and friendly and we all learned a great deal in a thoroughly enjoyable week.

Oh, and what did we do in the evenings? Well after a hard day and a meal at the Cricketers

Jersey Open Sponsored by La Haule House

The 6th Jersey Open, generously sponsored by la Haule House Residential Home with total prize money amounting to £800, proved to be as popular as ever, attracting players from England, France, Germany, Guernsey, Ireland, Luxembourg and the Isle of Man, giving it a truly international flavour. Despite the difficulties some players experienced in coming to Jersey - flights delayed due to fog and the manager missing his flight from Bristol altogether and having to drive to Exeter to catch another - everyone arrived on time.



Mrs M Cousins presenting the cheque from the sponsors - La Haule House Residential Home - to the Jersey Croquet club President, Richard Sowerby.

Arms we were too shattered to contemplate anything other than an early night.

Geoff Taylor

Unprofessional or just plain amateur?

Dear Editor

I think that it is unprofessional to print the rankings as you did in the July Gazette verbatim from Chris Williams missing a number of results. If he always puts in all the results that he has to hand then there will inevitably be some results missing (since it is not possible for the results to arrive at a uniform rate). The magazine should only include consistent rankings and should not imply criticism on tournament managers who may have complied completely with all the CA regulations regarding sending of results. In this case you appear to have just inserted an email distributed to the Nottingham email group on 15th June 1998 with the following text:

"UK Rankings after Mens and Womens Championship.

Qualification 5 games since November 1997 (just before World Championship)

Recent events missing, because I have not had the results yet, are May 30-31 Harrow (apart from semis and final)

June 2-7 Roehampton

June 6-7 Bowdon

June 6-7 Edgbaston

June 6-7 Nailsea

Also I am missing a number of Mary Rose and Inter Club matches.

I have not yet tracked down which Smith and Thompson played at Hurlingham in early May. I have assumed Brian Smith and Brian Thompson though I may be wrong. It would help if managers put players initials as well as surnames when they send results in."

If the magazine editor needs a consistent copy of the rankings the ranking officer ought to be able to supply them given suitable notice.

Richard Hilditch

I do not believe I have ever published the rankings as I did in the July issue, but do not accept that my actions were unprofessional. If the administrators of the ranking system feel it necessary to publish such information on the Nottingham email list to alert the players or official responsible for the problems, then unless the administrator (Chris Williams) informs me otherwise, I cannot see any reason why the information should not be circulated outside the realms of email.

Richard and many other managers are always prompt with their reporting of results, and I do apologise for causing any embarrassment to such managers. However there are some very tardy result reporters, and also some who send in illegible and incomplete information and it is my opinion that these are the people who need to realise that their actions, or lack of them, can, and do, cause extra work for others. Ed.

Tournament Reports.....

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Tournament Reports.....

The 1998 Student Championships Oxford University 19 - 21 June

Report by Gabrielle Higgins

Despite attracting entrants from disappointingly few universities, the Student Championships saw some good croquet played in plenty of sunshine on Oxford University's lawns in the University Parks. In the team events Oxford made up for the previous day's defeat in the Oxford-Cambridge Varsity with a 5:1 victory over Cambridge. In the individual event James Death of Exeter claimed the Dudley Hamilton Miller trophy which he so narrowly lost last year to Chris Dent of Cambridge. After 4 convincing victories, with a successful attempt at a triple peel and an unsuccessful one at a sextuple peel, his last game against Jonathan Repp (Oxford) was surprisingly close, ending up as a pegged-out game to provide variety. Perhaps large quantities of Pimms and lemonade had affected his game but obviously not badly as he went on to win eventually +11. Winning however can have disadvantages: Alan Oldham, doing the presentation, handed over not only the trophy but also a bottle of silver polish.

Results (All games played level-advanced)

Team Event for Edmund Reeve Trophy:

Oxford won 5:1

Oxford	beat	Cambridge
Jonathan Repp	beat	William Windham
Russell Manning	beat	Tony Foot +2T
Gabrielle Higgins	beat	Emily Bache +25
Charles Bailey	beat	Dom Syme +3T
Jonathan and Gabrielle	beat	William and Emily +1T
Russell and Charles	lost to	Tony and Dom -4

Individual Event for Dudley Hamilton-Miller Trophy - Swiss

5 wins	James Death	Exeter
3 wins	Jonathan Repp	Oxford
3 wins	Gabrielle Higgins	Oxford
2 wins	William Windham	Cambridge
2 wins	Robert Bates/Ben Kenward	Oxford
2 wins	Russell Manning	Oxford
1 win	Charles Bailey	Oxford

Croquet North Inter-Club Championships 11- 12 July

Report by Gail Curry

Croquet North may not be one of the largest federations, whether size is measured by clubs, lawns or players. However following on from the success and enjoyment provided by last year's centenary inter-club event, the Armada Trophy weekend was repeated this year.

All four clubs from the federation were represented with Tyneside and Belsay Hall hosting events, and Tynemouth Priory and Middlesborough travelling. The format for the

event was inventive, with only four lawns to use and handicaps ranging from 0 - 24 it had to be. There were numerous events including handicap singles, doubles, advanced singles, short croquet, golf croquet singles and doubles, not to mention alternate shot doubles, hi-low doubles, speed croquet and one ball. In total over fifty players participated in a busy weekend schedule playing over 90 games between them.

The weather was not at its best, but everyone enjoyed playing their part in the event with the aid of smooth management and score keeping by Bruce Rannie and Don Wright, with Belsay Hall eventually lifting the Armada trophy from the grasp of last year's winners Tyneside.

Ipswich Handicap , 11-12 July

Report by Neil Chalmers

Eleven of East Anglia's stalwarts together with a brave visitor from Nottingham gathered at Ipswich on the Saturday morning with the weather set fair but with rain forecast for later in the day. Saturday's promised rain did not materialise, but Sunday made up for it in no uncertain manner! The famously treacherous Ipswich lawns were comfortably green and even quite forgiving although the trails in the damp surface on Sunday morning showed up some of their strange twist and turns. Handicaps ranged from 1/2 to 20 but under the gentle but persuasive management of Philip Eardley, many very close games ensued. The format was a 5-round Swiss (approximately) with the usual last round adjustments to try to ensure a clear winner. This was successfully achieved and Claire Heritage from the host club, a last minute replacement, emerged as the winner of the Suffolk Bowl with a perfect 5/5. Runner-up was John Robinette from Bury St. Edmunds on 4/5 having beaten the manager who had also won 4/5. Peter Allnutt failed to take into account that some of us had let our handicaps slip somewhat when he took his first ball to rover on not one, but two occasions when playing opponents with several bisques and the experience to use them. Perhaps we should put it down to his desire to make the visitors feel welcome!

A selection of 'special prizes' was up for grabs e.g. a triple by handicap <1; a double peel finish by handicap >4 and so on. The only one claimed was a double peel finish by John Robinette. It is to be hoped that the tube of Smarties he won made up for the loss of one of his sandwiches which he had placed under his chair out of the rain. A very well organised squirrel had cased the joint for some time and retired to the undergrowth with his trophy as John came off the lawn! A neat bridge to the unique

Ipswich catering supervised in their inimitable style by the two Celias. As good as ever despite Sunday's rain - even one squirrel was highly impressed! All in all an exceptionally friendly tournament in a lovely setting despite Sunday's rain.

Cheltenham Victorian Tournament 18 - 19 July

Report by John de Winton

A field of thirty-two players with handicaps ranging from 18 to -1.5 set off in ideal conditions on Saturday morning after a welcoming and opening ceremony attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Cheltenham. Reverend and Mrs J Whales and Mrs Mary Eyre the President of the East Gloucestershire Club where the first Cheltenham Croquet tournament was held in 1898.

Playing the 1898 rules required considerable concentration, particularly when double-banked, as the balls had to be played in the correct sequence. Not a few players were seen to be carrying crib sheets and heard muttering "G-P-B-W" as the balls scattered. The rules on bisque taking, only one per turn, were a welcome relief to the low handicap players who were able to get on the lawns more often, usually after the strangled cry for "another bisque please" had been choked back with disappointment. The learning curve on tactics was steep, given the starting position one foot in front of hoop 1, the need to prepare for the turning peg after hoop 6 and, in the absence of lifts, the opportunities for cross wiring (the right balls). No one appeared to have done a second take round after leaving an unplayable leave, but one could well see the reason for this change in the rules.

It was, however, a very interesting tournament, very efficiently managed by David Magee and Dave Foulser, which gave plenty of food for thought and generated much discussion. The tournament was won by Craig Edwards (12) who beat John de Winton (3) +24. The winner of the Y was John Handy (12) who beat Roger Jackman (1) +12 and the Z was won by Mitch Watts (16) who beat Dab Wheeler (9) +6.

Prizes were presented by the great nephew of one of the first tournament organisers Miss Maude de Winton and of the winner of the 1898 Cheltenham singles Mr Harold de Winton. Nepotism can get one so far but there are limits

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Surbiton Speed Doubles 18th & 19th July

Report by Andy Dibben

Nine o'clock Saturday morning the phone rang. "We need you down at the club to make up the numbers for a late dropout at the weekend tournament." I managed to get there for 09:45. However, had I come to the right place? People rushing about in fancy costumes. This wasn't normal croquet, was I still dreaming? No, this was the second Surbiton Speed Doubles tournament.

11 teams took part including participants from Ipswich, Oxford University, Bury St Edmunds, Guildford, Watford, Budleigh Salterton and Dulwich. Over the 2 days the tournament was played as a block with each team playing 10 games. Games consisted of 14 points with each team limited to 30 minutes of playing time.

Matching outfits, especially fancy hats seemed the order of the day. Sue Thrussell and Tim Dutton were suitably attired in jesters' hats. However their standard of play was no joke and they were one of the leading teams at the end of the first day. Celia Steward sporting a witch's hat had obviously cast a spell over her partner George Noble who appeared to be playing with a chicken-shaped tea cosy on his head. Amid mutters of 'it's not croquet' a further spell failed to improve matters as he turned up on the Sunday with an even more outlandish creation in West Ham colours.

After three rounds in the morning, the pace of the games seemed to slow down on Saturday afternoon. Some people claimed that they had adjusted their game to cope with the different tactics required for speed croquet, others were more open in admitting the effects of another of those famous Surbiton lunches served up by Hazel washed down by the equally famous top quality Surbiton ales!

At the end of the first day 7 rounds had been played with 4 teams in contention for the championship having only lost 1 or 2 games. Many of those, including myself, who had not played speed doubles before were amazed that only 1 game had failed to finish before both teams had used up their 30 minutes. Over the barbecue that was held to round off the day there was much debate as to why so many normal doubles games could not be finished within a 3 1/2 hour time limit!

By lunch on Sunday, with one round left to play the competition was still very close. All was resolved in the final round with 2 teams achieving 8 wins out of 10 and the rest of the teams gathered to watch the final between Samir Patel (Surbiton) and Douglas Burns (Oxford University) against Gina Lewis (Surbiton) and Philip Eardley (Ipswich).

Samir got the first break, going to hoop 6 including a jump shot at 3 at what looked like an almost impossible angle. When Douglas then

got round to hoop 5 it looked as though it might be a win by +14. However after several exchanges of turns and some precious minutes being used up by both sides Gina got to peg. Samir had a chance to wrap the game up by pegging Gina out but failed to get her ball close enough to the peg after running hoop 6. With time running out, Philip was able to get in and make all 6 hoops and peg out with less than 1 minute remaining by restricting himself to a 3 ball break.

Nelson Morrow presented Gina and Philip with the trophy and each received an engraved crystal wine glass. Our thanks to Nelson for organising a magnificent weekend. We would all like to know how you managed to get the sun to shine for the first time this year. Can you also do the same next year as there were a number of converts to the fun, but exciting style, of speed doubles.

Eastern Championships, Colchester 24 - 26 July

Report by Richard Hilditch

Expectations were high of a quality event as the Eastern championships returned to its original home of Colchester. A strong field included 6 President's Cup players and several other strong minus players. We were not disappointed.

Following extensive work the lawns have now been returned to their previous glory (although they are not quite as flat as in Edward Duffield's day yet). Hot dry weather and firm freshly set hoops made for testing conditions particularly on the second day with players of the calibre of Robert Fulford breaking down on triple peels and making multiple errors. This was a very pleasant contrast to the easier conditions at the Open Championships the week before and all the players preferred a proper contest. Late withdrawals left us with 14 players and wearing my manager's hat I elected to seed 7 of them (I believe in selecting seeds on merit not number).

Straight away we were treated to a test of the lawns as Phil Cordingley and Graham Fowler needed to make use of the 3.5 hour time limit to resolve their game (+1 of course). The seeds made their way through the first round without dropping games. The next round did see Robert Fulford drop a game breaking a 29 game winning streak. He was finishing a triple with an Irish peel at rover and having run the hoop by a small amount elected to take on a shot bouncing off the hoop to a ball 3 feet to the side instead of a 3 yard shot through the hoop. He missed and Chris Farthing finished skillfully from 4-back and rover. Robert found his consistency and took the next two games with triples. The match between Phil Cordingley and Keith Aiton saw Keith uncharacteristically hitting well but not being able to complete breaks. Once Keith started missing Phil was able to put him away in the third. In this match Phil tested the ROT's resolve: he was hampered by the peg in a break and spotted that it was not dead between hoops 5 and

6 and asked for it to be moved under regulation 5(h). I simply ruled that I would move one of the hoops if necessary or move the peg to make it more hampered! This law (from the Mulliner rewrite) really does need repealing, there should be no recourse to reset equipment in critical situations. The rematch (from the Opens) between Pete Trimmer and David Openshaw was sadly not completed as David had made the bad decision of leaving his car key on a pub bar and so had to withdraw while he rescued his car.

The semi-final between Fulford and Cordingley started with a 6th turn triple from Robert. The second game was a much closer affair with both players having good chances before Phil hit the peg with his last ball as Robert had reached peg and peg. In the deciding game Phil got the first break but made an error on the leave allowing Robert to take control making a triple in the most difficult conditions on the most difficult lawn. The other semi-final between the David Maugham and Pete Trimmer was even closer, with several errors on both sides before David came out with a +4 victory in the third (Pete having been unable to get any peels of a triple earlier).

The best of 5 final was played in slightly easier conditions as the weather was mostly overcast, but there were still plenty of errors to be made. In the first game a bad croquet stroke prevented Dave finishing a triple allowing Rob to produce a good +3TP after errors from both players. The second game saw Dave getting to 4-back on the third turn and Rob following him on the 4th turn with a strong leave. Dave elected to shoot at a ball hidden behind hoop 1 from corner 1 and delighted the crowd (which was admittedly quite modest) when he hit the ball by running hoop 1 Egyptian style! He didn't capitalise on this opportunity but was able to hit in later to level the match. The third game was untidy with a number of errors, Dave keeping ahead throughout. The fourth game saw a more clinical triple from Robert in the 7th turn as we received a brief visit from drizzle. The final game started with a corner 2 opening that Dave hit on the 4th turn advancing to 4-back. Robert missed but Dave failed his break at hoop 3. Robert equalised at 4-back but left a ball open in the leave (as he had in an earlier game) to give Dave the innings. Both players then hit consecutive 30 yard shots with their forward balls and then Robert put his ball into corner 2 to prevent Dave getting a standard triple! It is refreshing to see this type of defensive shot amongst the top players, although it is very rare and often incorrect. Dave was then able to finish in two turns, Robert missing the critical lift at a ball in a hoop (which he says he doesn't like to aim at). This victory by Maugham was well earned with Fulford by no means playing badly, indeed Robert had 2 triples to Dave's none (he was lacking in control at times in his breaks).

Openshaw returned with his rescued car to sweep up in the Swiss which boasted a very strong array of talent as most of the players stayed to compete.

Southwick Autumn Tournament
August 17 - 22

Report by John Hobbs

The Southwick lawns were green and moist as a result of regular watering. The balls on lawns 1 to 6 were Barlow GTs and we were invited to comment on their behaviour. The general conclusion was that more energy has to be put into a croquet shot to give the same combined distances. The result was that in early games many balls did not reach their target and some players complained of aching wrists on roll shots. We also lacked the experience to work out new (higher) allowances for pull on angled peels. However we did benefit from the ability to make reliable straight peels from up to 4 feet and peg outs from greater distances than usual.

The winner of the advanced block was Paul Castell who came down from 1.5 to 0.5 handicap after winning all his games. He could well give his name to a new style of grip, which he developed from knowing he was accurate at sawing wood. He thought that holding the mallet Solomon style, but at his right side, with left foot forward, would give maximum accuracy. I can personally assure you that it does! He swings as if sawing wood and then drops the mallet to hit for all shots, from hoop approaches to long roquets and croquets.

Anyone without a game was invited initially to play one-ball and this proved fun practice for running long hoops and judging distances. Tactics also began to become apparent in some cases. On Friday however there were sufficient players out of the knockouts to make a Swiss with short handicap croquet, and lifts after 3 and 4. This was novel to most players and proved to be extremely interesting and lively. Several people were obliging enough to tell their inexperienced opponent when they had become entitled to a lift (but not always!). The time was set at one hour, followed by 6 Wharrad turns each, the rules for which could be obtained from the inventor himself, who at 84 was still playing a good game.

Paul Macdonald was unfortunately not yet fit enough to be manager, so Brian Teague made an able substitute and coped well with the problems of finalists being required in two events at once. The catering and bar arrangements were excellent as usual and the whole week was blessed with reasonably warm dry weather, except for the night of the BBQ when it decided to be cold and wet. Eight handicaps came down and there were four silver and two bronze awards.

Tournament Results

WOKING MID-SUMMER OPEN 27 - 29 JUNE
Manager: Geoffrey Cuttle Format: KO
Challenge Cup: Nelson Morrow bt Roger Hayes
Caporn Casket: James Wankling bt Andrew Dutton
WREST PARK ADVANCED WKND 3 - 5 JULY
Manager: Eric Audsley Format: American
Winners: Graham Fowler, Mark Roberts
RAMSGATE HANDICAP WKND 3 - 4 JULY
Manager: Roy Ware Format: Swiss
1st Simon Miles, 2nd John Sanderson, 3rd Ian Price.
CA Bronze Award: Michael Poole
SOUTHPORT LONG BISQUERS WKND 4 - 5 JULY
Manager: Alice Dawson Format: Swiss
1st Dennis Graham, 2nd Anna Giraud
EAST RIDING HANDICAP WKND 4 - 5 JULY
Manager: Ian Maugham Format: Egyptian
1st D Knight, 2nd A Bell, 3rd N Best.
CA Bronze Awards: J Sweed, J Kennedy, D Knight.
ROEHAMPTON B LEVEL 4 - 5 JULY
Manager: Douglas Gurney Format: American
Winner Mike Town. Runner-up Mrs K Priestley
CHELTENHAM 50+ 7 - 9 JULY
Manager: D Moorcraft Format: American
Block Winners: Brian Pacini, Don Clay, Geoffrey Edgeler, John Handy, Cliff Bailey, Jean Powell, Brian Shorney.
CA Silver Award: Jim Markham.
IPSWICH HANDICAP WKND 11 - 12 JULY
Manager: Philip Eardley Format: Swiss
Winner: Claire Heritage Runner-Up: Philip Eardley
CHALLENGE & GILBEY NOTTINGHAM 16 - 19 JULY
Manager: G Hopewell
Gilbey Goblet: Winner Mrs B McGlen
Runner-Up Mark Roberts.
EDGBASTON HANDICAP WKND 17 - 19 JULY
Manager: Denis Gregory Format: American
Block Winners: Noel Davis, Esther Jones.
Play-off Davis bt Jones.
SURBITON SPEED DOUBLES 18 - 19 JULY
Manager: Nelson Morrow Format: American
Winners: Gina Lewis & Philip Eardley
Runners-up: Samir Patel & Douglas Burns
THE VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIP
BUDLEIGH SALTERTON 20 - 25 JULY
Manager: Paul Macdonald Format: Various
Rothwell Challenge Cup: Hamish Hall, 2nd B Teague
The Felixstowe Cup: Mrs D Brothers, 2nd Mrs J Nash
The Strickland Cup: L J Nash, 2nd L Ainsworth
The Meredith Cup: Mrs D Miller, 2nd L Ainsworth
The Longman Trophies: Nigel Gray & Leonard Ainsworth
70+ Championship: D Purdon, 2nd G Davis
CHELTENHAM JULY WEEK 20 - 25 JULY
Manager: Roger & Dab Wheeler
A Class: Dave Foulser bt Bernard Neal

B Class: Dai Morgan bt Paul Watson
C Class: Ben Elwell bt Neil Williams
D Class: James Tuttiett bt John Andrews
E Class: Craig Edwards bt Brian Shorney
CA Silver Award: Michael Blackwell
JERSEY OPEN 20 - 26 JULY
Manager: Don Gaunt
Championship: Matthew Burrow bt Don Gaunt
Plate: Chris Dent bt Paul Duckworth
B Class: Sarah Burrow
C Class: Doreen Burrow
Handicap Singles X: John Taylor bt Paul Duckworth
Handicap Singles Y: Terry Burge bt Kevin Garrard
Handicap Doubles: Doreen Burrow & Tony Le Moignan bt Don Gaunt & Anne Ven De Vilet
Egyptian: Liz Batin
EASTERN CHAMPIONSHIP COLCHESTER 24 - 26 JULY
Manager: Richard Hilditch Format: KO & Swiss
Round 1: *Robert Fulford bt Peter Payne +25 +24; Chris Farthing bt Chris Patmore -16 +16 +12; *Phil Cordingley bt Graham Fowler +1(T) +24; *Keith Aiton bt Colin Southern +4 +16; *David Openshaw bt Richard Hilditch +2 +26; *Pete Trimmer bt Graham Gale +14 +9. Round 2: Fulford bt Farthing -2 +26TP +17TP; Cordingley bt Aiton -8 +5 +24; Trimmer bt Openshaw -6 +15 +w/o; *David Maugham bt *David Goacher +15 +26TP. Semis: Fulford bt Cordingley +26TP -2 +14TP; Maugham bt Trimmer +25TP -9 +4. Final: Maugham bt Fulford -3TP +17 +17 -24TP +17.
SOUTHWICK SUMMER WKND 24 - 26 JULY
Manager: Bill Arliss Format: Swiss
Martletts Shield: Ken Mason
Runner-up: Pauline Davey
Southwick Cup: Paul Castell
Runner-up John Low
Maurice Reckitt Rose Bowl: Roger Best
Runner-up Bill Arliss
CA Silver Award: Brian Kitching
CASSIOBURY HANDICAP WKND 24 - 26 JULY
Manager: R Bateson Format: American
Winner: R Bretherton Runner-up: P Thompson
EAST DORSET HANDICAP WKND 1 - 2 AUGUST
Manager: John Simmonds Format: Swiss
Winner: Penny Simmonds
CA Bronze Award: Gabrielle Higgins
COWHORN COMPTON 1 - 2 AUGUST
Manager: Roger Wood Format: KO & Swiss
Ian Bond bt George Noble
Swiss: Graham Gale
Peeling Prize: George Noble
HURLINGHAM WEEK 1 - 9 AUGUST
Manager: Bob Stephens
Hurlingham Cup: Philip Eardley
Runner-up Ian Plummer
Turner Cup: Malcolm Bigg
Runner-up David Mooney
Younger Cup: Niall Carter Runner-up Brian Rees
Longworth Cup: Anne Robillard
Runner-up Peter Spiller
Jubilee Cup: Russell Bretherton
Baillieu Plate: Kevin Carter
Egyptian: Bob Stephens

Ladies Doubles: Belkise Ismail & Mary Knapp
bt Marjorie Boyd & Jean Ackermann
Goblets: Audrey East & Sue Best
Mens Doubles: Geoffrey Cuttle & Mike Lambert
bt Brian Regan & Nigel Graves
Goblets: Gary Bennett & Tim Dutton
Mixed Doubles: Roger & Sue Best bt Digby Bridges & Pauline Healy
AUGUST TOURNAMENT
BUDLEIGH SALTERTON 2 - 8 AUGUST
Manager: Gail Curry/Mike Hammelev
A Class: Lionel Tibble bt Shona Vaissiere
B Class: Tony Dustan-Smith bt Mike Town
C Class: John Wilkinson bt Rowland Henderson
D Class: Paul Whittall bt Graham Dodd
Handicap Singles: Paul Whittall bt Graham Dodd
Handicap Doubles: Mike Hammelev & Graham Dodd bt Cliff Jones & Sue Thrussell.
Golf Croquet: Brian Smith bt Ed Dymock
One Ball (Adv) Brian Smith
One Ball (Hcp) Les Toye
Most improved gentleman: Paul Whittall
Most improved lady: Shona Vaissiere
CRAWLEY 50+ 5 - 6 AUGUST
Manager: Len Nash Format: Swiss
1st Pauline Davey, 2nd Justin Davies, 3rd Peggy Nutland
RAMSGATE HANDICAP DOUBLES 8 - 9 AUGUST
Manager: Roy Ware Format: Swiss
1st Paul & Simon Miles, 2nd Gabor & Alex Weiner, 3rd Roy Ware & John Roche
C.A. IRELAND VS C.A. 9 - 10 AUGUST
MANAGER: IAN MAUGHAM
Williams & A McInerney bt D Gaunt & I Maugham +16 +16
Cunningham & M McInerney bt Kibble & Cowing +20 -1 +9TPO
Shorten & Rogers lost to D Maugham & Bradforth -10 -16.
E Cunningham lost to D Maugham -26TP +10 -11
S Williams lost to D Gaunt -16 -15
A McInerney bt D Kibble +16 +16
Jane Shorten lost to A Cowing -15 -15
C Rogers bt I Maugham -9 +23 +22
M McInerney bt Louise Bradforth -19 +7 +5
Match score: C.A. Ireland 5 C.A. 4
COLCHESTER OVER 50 11 - 13 AUGUST
MANAGEMENT: THE WHEELERS
FORMAT: EGYPTIAN
1st David Haslam, 2nd David Jenkinson, 3rd Mike Percival.
WREST PARK 22 - 23 AUGUST
MANAGER: JOHN WATSON FORMAT: SWISS
1st J Dyer, 2nd D Kibble, 3rd D Harley.
Gold Award: Louise Bradforth
HARROW OAK 22 - 23 AUGUST
MANAGER: RICHARD HILDITCH FORMAT: SWISS
1st Johnathan Toye, 2nd John Hall
HURLINGHAM 29 - 31 AUGUST
MANAGER: FORMAT:
Swiss Handicap: Winner - A Davies
Runner-up - R Knapp
Consolation Swiss: Winner L Nash
Runner-up - M Pullin
Egyptian: P Salisbury

Handicap Alterations

Woking mid-summer 30 June - 5 July
J Cosier 6 to 5
R Alexander 8 to 7
D Mumford 11 to 10
C Ross 3.5 to 4
D Mooney 6 to 5
Roehampton B level
T Dutton 4.5 to 5
Mrs K Priestley 7 to 5
Ipswich Handicap 11 - 12 July
Claire Heritage 9 to 8
P Allnutt 1 to 1.5
A Bell 8 to 7
P Eardley 0.5 to 0
Challenge & Gilbey 16 - 19 July
Mrs B McGlen 2 to 2.5
R Edlin-White 16 to 18
B Rees 7 to 6
R White 1 to 0.5
F Whittaker 2 to 1.5
C Hopewell 1 to 1.5
J Allen 20 to 17
Edgbaston Handicap 17 - 19 July
M Davis 9 to 6
R Gatenby 12 to 14
Colchester Club
D Haslam 8 to 9
C Hemming 11 to 10
Veterans' Championship 20 - 25 July
L Ainsworth 16 to 14
Mrs D Brothers 8 to 7
R Henderson 7 to 6
L Nash 12 to 11
J Solomon -0.5 to 0
Cheltenham July week
Club play
D King 14 to 12
P Leach 7 to 8
G Weir 11 to 10
After play
G Chamberlin 11 to 12
P Crowe 12 to 11
K Davis 7 to 8
C Edwards 12 to 11
Mrs G Harris 2 to 2.5
P Leach 8 to 9
D Morgan 3 to 2

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

NEW ADVERTISING
OPPORTUNITIES

Classified advertising has now been introduced to the Gazette at very competitive rates, to both individual members and clubs as well as rates for non-members and trade/commercial. Details of how to place an advert should be available now at all clubs.

Mrs M Selmes 12 to 11
Mrs A Thursfield 7 to 6
G Weir 10 to 11
B Weitz 7 to 8
Mrs K Whittall 4.5 to 4
Jersey Open 21 - 27 July
Mrs E Balin 16 to 14
Mrs D Burrow 18 to 16
Mrs S Burrow 5 to 4.5
R Dourthe 0 to -0.5
J Taylor 7 to 6
A Van des Vilet 20 to 18
Bath Club
Michael Beard 8 to 9
Mary Tope 9 to 8
Robert Whitaker 9 to 10
Richard Everett 14 to 12
Daniel Mills 16 to 14
Sidmouth Club
Paul Whittall 11 to 10
Sheila Blenkinsop 12 to 11
Susan Rogers 12 to 11
Rowland Henderson 8 to 7
Open Championship 12 - 19 July
Mrs P Healy 3.5 to 3
I Vincent -0.5 to -1
M Burrow -0.5 to -1
J Fournier -1.5
Bristol Club
Miss M Hilton 6 to 5
A Potter 7 to 8
A Leggate -0.5 to -1
Mrs S Green 4 to 4.5
Mrs R Scott 14 to 12
Mrs F Ransom 1.5 to 2.5
R Jenkins -0.5 to -1
Zenmet Club
R Marles 24 to 22
J Owen 3.5 to 3
R Wood 22 to 18
East Dorset Handicap 1 - 2 August
S Patel 4.5 to 4
R Nunn 10 to 9
P Stokes 14 to 16
Preston Club
Kay Kendall 9 to 10
Crawley 50+ 5 - 6 August
C Davies 20 to 18
K Pascall 20 to 18
Budleigh Salterton 2 - 8 August
P Whittall 10 to 7
G Dodd 18 to 14
Sue Thrussell 12 to 11
Jane Babbage 10 to 11
S Carter -0.5 to 0
W Arliss 0 to 0.5
Ms S Vaissiere 0 to -0.5
Mrs J Nash 9 to 8
Guildford & Godalming 8 - 9 August
John Wentworth 7 to 4
Deiniol Morgan 2 to 1.5

AROUND & ABOUT



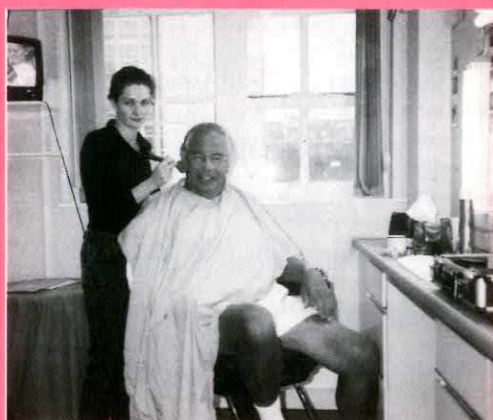
Tynemouth Priory club above and The Northampton Club below, are both claiming the most idyllic setting for a club, unless of course you know differently.



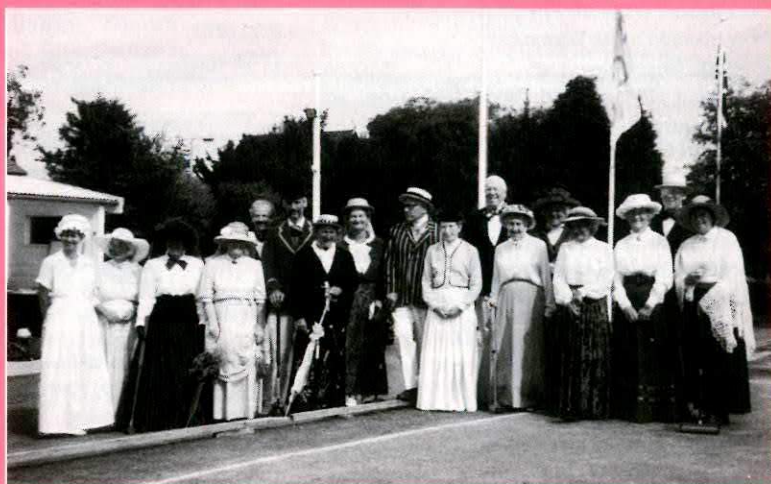
Three generations of the Burrow family were successful at the Jersey Championships, with Matthew winning the Open, Mum Sarah winning the B level, and grandmother Doreen winning the C Class.



Tom Weston is the player requiring the referee, but who is the mystery referee?



Bill Arliss undergoing make-up before being interviewed on Granada television during a visit to the Northerns week.



Competitors in the Cheltenham Victorian tournament pose for a photo before play.