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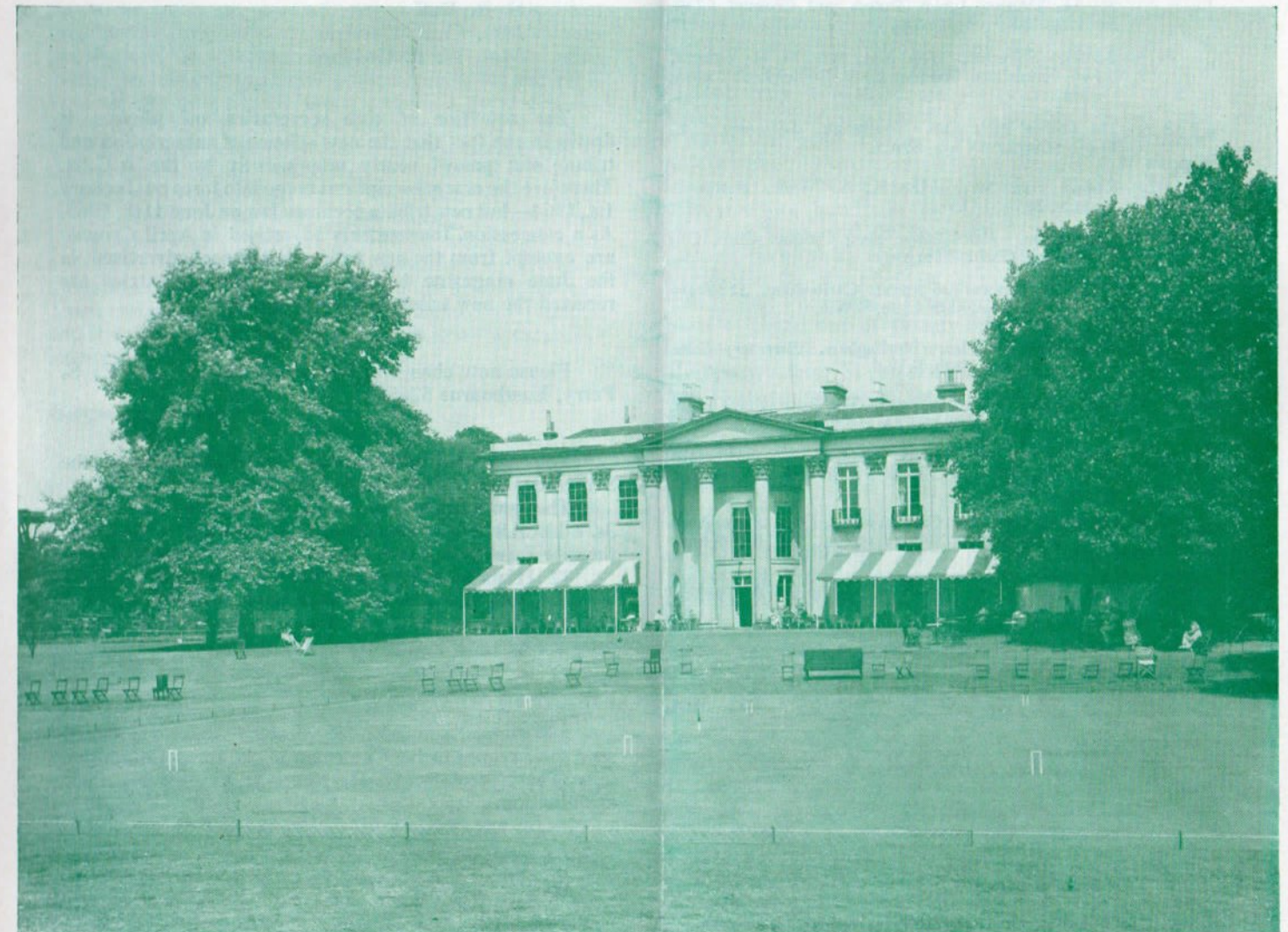
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# CROQUET

*The Official Organ  
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*Hurlingham Club*

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## CALENDAR FIXTURES

1963

- June 1-3—Cheltenham. (Non-official). *Hon. Tourn. Sec.*, Croquet Club, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham.
- „ 3-8—Men's and Women's Championships. Handicap Singles (Evening). *Roehampton. Secretary C.A.*, The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.
- „ 10-15—Nottingham. *Hon. Tourn. Sec.*, G. Birch, 88 Cedar Road, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham.
- 15-23—Championship of Ireland. *Hon. Sec.*, Mrs. B. T. O'Reilly, Ballynamote, Carrickmines, Dublin.
- „ 17-22—Compton. *Hon. Sec.*, H. C. S. Perry, Hockington House, Willingdon, Eastbourne.
- „ 24-29—Parkstone. *Hon. Sec.*, Mrs. M. McMordie, 4 Overbury Road, Parkstone.
- July 1-5—Budleigh Salterton. (Non-official). *Hon. Sec.*, Mrs. M. H. Vincent, Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Budleigh Salterton, Devon.
- „ 8-13—Budleigh Salterton. *Hon. Sec.*, Mrs. M. H. Vincent, Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Budleigh Salterton, Devon.
- „ 15-19—The Ladies' Field Cup. *Southwick. Secretary C.A.*, The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.
- „ 15-20—Ryde. *Hon. Sec.*, Miss K. A. Wade, Partlands Avenue, Ryde, I.O.W.
- „ 22-27—Cheltenham. *Hon. Tourn. Sec.*, Croquet Club, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham.
- „ 29—Junior Tournament (26 years). *Cheltenham. Secretary C.A.*, The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.
- Aug. 1—*C.A.*, The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.
- July 29—Open Championships. *Hurlingham. Secretary C.A.*, The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.
- Aug. 3—*C.A.*, The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.
- Aug. 5-14—Hurlingham. *Games Secretary*, The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6. (*NOT Secretary C.A.*).
- „ 10-17—Championship of County Dublin. (Non-official). *Hon. Sec.*, Mrs. B. O'Reilly, Ballynamote, Carrickmines, Dublin.
- „ 15-24—Challenge and Gilbey Cups, Ascot and Delves Boughton Cups. *Roehampton. Secretary C.A.*, The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.
- „ 26-31—Southwick. *Hon. Tourn. Sec.*, Miss H. D. Parker, 4 Third Avenue, Hove 3.
- Sept. 2-7—Hunstanton. *Hon. Sec.*, Mrs. J. A. Clarke, 49 Northgate, Hunstanton.
- „ 2-7—Southwick. (Non-official). *Hon. Tourn. Sec.*, Miss H. Parker, 4 Third Avenue, Hove 3.
- „ 2-7—Cheltenham. (Non-official). *Hon. Tourn. Sec.*, Croquet Club, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham.
- „ 9-13—President's Cup (Hurlingham). *Secretary C.A.*, The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.
- „ 9-13—Surrey Cup (Cheltenham). *Secretary C.A.*, The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.
- „ 9-13—Parkstone. *Hon. Sec.*, Mrs. M. McMordie, 4 Overbury Road, Parkstone.
- „ 19-21—All England Handicap. Area Finals. *Roehampton. Secretary C.A.*, The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.
- „ 23-28—Roehampton. *Games Secretary*, Roehampton Club, Roehampton Lane, S.W.15. (*NOT Sec. C.A.*).
- „ 30—Devonshire Park. *Eastbourne. Secretary C.A.*, The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.
- Oct. 12

## CROQUET ASSOCIATION NOTICES

Subscriptions due on January 1st, 1963, should be sent to the Secretary, C.A., Hurlingham Club, London, S.W.6. Reminders cost time and money so Associates are asked to pay now. The Council urges Associates to pay subscriptions by Banker's Order wherever possible. This is of great help to the work of the Secretary.

Associates are reminded that where subscriptions remain unpaid by the end of June in any year their names will be deleted from the distribution list of *Croquet*.

An Associate whose subscription is in arrear shall not be entitled to privileges attached to members, e.g., play in any C.A. Tournament.

### NEW ASSOCIATES

\* \* \*  
 Alan James  
 S. R. Duff  
 Mrs. C. J. Clements  
 Mrs. W. P. Goddard  
 \* \* \*

The attention of club secretaries and players is drawn to the fact that the new scheme of subscription and tribute was passed nearly unanimously by the A.G.M. Therefore the new subscriptions come into force on January 1st, 1964—but new tribute becomes law on June 11th, 1963. As a concession, tournaments advertised in April *Croquet* are exempt from the new ruling, but those advertised in the June magazine become liable, and as entries are received the new tribute must be claimed.

\* \* \*  
 Please note change of telephone number: H. C. S. Perry, Eastbourne 52656.  
 \* \* \*

The following publications are available from the Secretary, C.A., Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.

The new edition of the laws, 2s. 6d. (Non Associates 3s. 6d.) All Associates are strongly advised to purchase the new Laws which can also be obtained through Clubs. 12 Hints to Beginners, 1s. 0d. A very valuable booklet which contains much useful information. Entry forms for C.A. Tournaments. Pads of 25 price 2s. 0d.

### REFEREES

\* \* \*  
 Associates who wish to become Referees should send their names to the Chairman of the Laws Committee (c/o. The Secretary, C.A.), who will arrange for their examination.  
 \* \* \*

### NEW REFEREE

\* \* \*  
 Miss E. J. Warwick  
 \* \* \*

Badges for lady Associates are on sale at the Secretary's office at 7s. 6d. each plus postage. Orders of a dozen or more post free. Clubs are asked to order on a sale or return basis.

V. C. GASSON,  
 Secretary.

## NOTES by ROVER

### Thoughts after Victory

It is natural that we should think primarily of the great triumph of our team in the Antipodes as that of eight British players contending against the best individuals our rivals could muster. Such of course it was, and we should be grateful indeed to one and all of them for making so strong a personal contribution to the prestige of English croquet. But there is another angle from which we can look at the matter, and that is as the effort of a chosen band of representatives of our little Association of 500 going out to do battle with forces ten and twenty times stronger in number than the parent C.A. has shrunk to be. Creditable as we may regard this to be from one point of view, it is a good deal less satisfactory from another. When we see countries with populations far smaller than our own showing so much more effective energy in gathering devotees for the game than we can now display there is surely a good deal for all of us to take to heart and reflect upon. The degree of anxiety and consequent effort excited at the end of the 'twenties by the Association's failure to recover a membership comparable to that of fifteen years earlier (2,300) ought to be reproduced among us now that our numbers are less than a third of what they were about 1927 (1,638). The C.A. cannot afford to rest upon the laurels won for it by a handful of its leading players. There can be for it, very literally, only Safety in Numbers, and it is for such security we must now work with newly-inspired zeal.

### Hoops or Arches?

Croquet is defined in one of the leading standard dictionaries as "a game in which two or more players try to drive wooden balls, by means of long-handled mallets, through a series of arches set in the ground". There are a number of aspects of this definition which we find intriguing. The expression "try to drive" has a certain appeal: perhaps the compiler had seen Major Stone in play since he, if anybody, could be said to drive his ball when running the hoop rather than by using any other form of propulsion.

It must be a long time since players used the term "arches", although in fact it would seem a more appropriate word than "hoops". The one distinctive feature of a hoop is presumably its roundness, either in part or in whole, a quality which a croquet hoop certainly does not possess. The reason why they are called hoops stems no doubt from the fact that they started that way a century ago when they had a dome-like appearance. In a booklet on Croquet by John Jaques published in 1864, he remarks that the span of the hoop should not exceed ten inches. With the diameter of the balls then, as indeed now, three-and-five-eighths inches, there could have been little chance of sticking in the hoop. Presumably games in those distant days lasted as long as some do to-day, since Mr. Jaques recommends the japping of the hoops in white in order to render them more striking to the eye in contrast with the green turf—a matter of some importance, he adds, when the ending of a game is carried on in the dusk of the evening.

### Room at the top?

Mrs. Kirk's generous "Antipodean Lament" in the April number has led us to ask who is the happy warrior, who is he, whom every "croquetteer" would wish to be? Let us translate Wordsworth's question into the terms of our game and see what materials we have to-day for answering it. We might suppose our warrior to have the brilliant enterprise of Solomon tempered by the subtle sagacity of Hicks; Cotter's pre-eminent skill in picking up breaks and the beautifully rhythmic hoop running which he shares with Joan Warwick; Wiggins's masterly pass rolls; Ormerod's power to hit in at all distances, and Curtis's certainty not to miss at medium ones—all this combined with Lloyd-Pratt's capacity to come from behind to save a losing game.

The rest of us, however, may thank heaven that no such person yet exists, though the Champion of New Zealand may seem to come pretty near it. For it is doubtful whether too complete a dominance of any game is altogether good for it. There have been periods, mostly short, when it must have seemed that such a dominance was being exerted—by Cyril Corbally in the early nineteen hundreds, by C. L. O'Callaghan for a few years from 1910, by Miss D. D. Steel in the early 'thirties, perhaps by Humphrey Hicks immediately after World War II. But at other times the prizes seem to go round; this writer has happened to notice that in 1928 (Coxe's Year), out of twenty-three Open Singles with sixteen or more entries, there were as many as twenty different winners. Superiority may do more to stimulate than to discourage even those who know themselves to be below the capacity to equal it.

### Those of yore

In the Test matches that finished so successfully for us three months ago eight players represented this country. How many, we were recently asked, have played for England altogether in the whole series of matches that started in 1925? By researching through past issues of the magazine, it appears that the number is now a round thirty, most of whom have left their stamp on the game in one form or another. Two of our vice-presidents, William Longman and Maurice Reckitt, are among the company, the former having in fact played in the inaugural series in 1925. Maurice played both before and after World War II, appearing first in 1937 and then in 1956, and although not playing in the recent series will be remembered as perhaps the main motivating agent in getting it launched. The name of our late president, Sir Francis Colchester-Wemyss, appears in 1928 and 1935. A surprise to some will be Robert Tingey's name in 1937, since many associate him more with Australia than this country. He does indeed shuttle regularly between the two countries and his many friends will be glad to welcome him, and of course Claire, on our lawns again this season. Mention of the Tingey's return serves as an opportunity to mention another visitor from Australia, Ian Baillieu, who did so much two years ago to reshape our Laws: without him indeed the project would probably have never got under way.

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## WHO IS AUNT EMMA?

Whoever she may be found to be she is certainly a very long-lived lady. She would appear to have taken up the game from its very earliest days, but despite her long experience she has never lived down her unhappy reputation. Although her origin and even her specific characteristics remain somewhat uncertain, there can be no doubt that she has never had such opportunities for her particular methods of play since 1920 as she had before that season began. This can be easily explained. It was in 1920 that the sequence game was finally and decisively abolished and "either ball" took its place, with the result that there was no longer a "dead ball". Now it was Aunt Emma's firmest conviction that it was only the opponent's dead ball of which use should ever be made, and our far from sainted Aunt would be heard instructing those unfortunate enough to be paired with her in a double, to "get rid of the live ball, partner" at the beginning of every turn. Seeing that this tactic, of which she herself always made use, is no longer possible, she has never been quite the same woman since.

Nevertheless, Aunt Emma was a resolute person and she did not give up. But she is not now so easy to identify, and by no means everyone who is said to be her is accurately so described. They may bear certain resemblances to her, but these can be very misleading. It is the purpose of this article to sort out the problem presented by what—more often than not perhaps—is a case of mistaken identity. Beauty is said to be in the eye of the beholder; Aunt Emma is no beauty, but her unattractive aspect ought not to be imputed to her by a purely subjective judgment; more especially if this is unbalanced by the fact that you are finding your opponent's tactics so successful that you are in some danger of losing the game.

For tactics at croquet can seldom be reduced to absolute categories; they are relative to circumstances and to situations, and still more to differing levels of skill. What would be timid and unenterprising in a player of President's Cup standing may be entirely correct even for a B class player, and absolutely necessary for one in a higher category. The accurate calculation of a risk is one of the most important elements in good thinking at croquet. "Nothing venture, nothing win", is a maxim which should be always present to the croquet player, but though this saying is true, "everything venture, nothing win" is often still more so. As a matter of fact, many players who pride themselves on their "forward game" take the chances they do, not out of courage and enterprise but out of ignorance and thoughtlessness; they simply can't think of anything else to do. Defensive tactics at the appropriate moment (and not merely as a habit) are not only a legitimate form of meeting a situation; they may be, and often are, the only sensible ones.

The conventional antithesis between forward and backward play is not only superficial (and absurd, for one *can't* go backwards at croquet!); it is fundamentally mistaken. The true antithesis is between constructive and dilatory tactics. Obviously the most constructive thing one can do with an innings is to make a break with it; if there is a reasonable chance of doing this—and "reasonable" is of course relative to ability

and to some extent to experience—you will be a fool if you neglect such an opportunity. But this is not the only way of being foolish. One of the commonest alternatives to constructive play is to attempt long roll-ups to hoops which are "more than rather likely" (as Kipling put it) to leave your balls out on the court with a free shot for your opponent. Nothing is less constructive or more dilatory for medium players than neglect to prepare positions from which they will have at least a good chance of starting a break in their next turn in favour of attempting to score every time they get in. Such a habit, if indulged in by both parties to a match, is in fact one of the main reasons why so many tournament games take so long. Much of what is applauded as "forward play" is in effect merely static.

No one could actually claim that in a serious game (as distinct of course from a knock up) a player is under a moral obligation to help his opponent to get in. Yet to listen to some complaints one hears from the side of the court it is clearly implied that he is. "He never gives me a free shot", one hears it said, as if this were a grave reproach to an opponent's play, when in fact it takes a fair measure of skill to prevent such a situation arising. One might reply by asking why all the "enterprise" should be on one side. If the adversary is not "sporting" enough to provide you with a good chance of getting in, you can always take a chance yourself and have a "sporting" shot at him, even though you may assist his break by doing so. Apart from the special case of the pegged-out game, you should be able to provide yourself with an open shot of some sort far more often than not.

I have noticed that some of those who are most eager to proclaim themselves to be forward players become a good deal less enthusiastic about this method of going about matters when they find themselves playing in a double with a partner who similarly prides himself on being one. "A bit risky, isn't it?" such a one will say. "But I'm a forward player", the other will reply, and sooner or later the confidence of each in the other will be shattered. There is much to be said in an Open Double, or in a Handicap Double where both partners have a fairly low handicap, for each player leaving the other to get on with it until some obviously problematical situation arises. But prospective partners should take some care to find out by what principles each professes to be guided before they form their alliance. It may be a very good thing if one of them is temperamentally more enterprising than the other and his partner more of a "planner", but they will only reap the benefit of their complementary abilities if each has a full respect for the judgment of the other.

There are certain methods of play which look unambitious but can in some circumstances be extremely effective. One is the two ball break which ends with a controlled situation, e.g. the two partner balls wired from each opponent, both of which are left some distance from a boundary. This is a strategy which it is none too easy for the out-player to combat and it can prove very psychologically harassing to him. An all-round break by one's adversary is one of those things to which one grows accustomed, but to find him making steady pro-

gress in so unorthodox a way is apt to be disturbing, and it is a perfectly legitimate method of offensive-defensive play when nothing else is very obviously "on". Actually it needs a good deal of skill and accuracy to bring off, and an accusation of "Aunt Emma-ing" advanced or hinted at by your opponent may be merely a betrayal of his envy of your ability to make a success of it.

I am certainly not seeking to suggest that Aunt Emma is no longer to be found; in fact she can be seen on the courts of nearly every tournament one visits. You will see her going off to separate enemy balls with no clear idea of what position she means to leave when she has done so; going into corners when there are perfectly free shots for her to take; giving up breaks which have been virtually handed to her because the consequences of breaking down are too alarming for her to face. Negative play of this sort is always to be condemned, though it arises, I believe, like its opposite, more often from ignorance and stupidity than from cowardice. Perhaps indeed cowardice is more often shown by those who are afraid to be thought "unsporting" and therefore attempt what they secretly feel to be practically impossibilities. Let them learn how to lay out a turn starting with a controlled rush near a boundary. Aunt Emma never does that. UNCLE EMBER

#### Sussex County Croquet Club

Through illness—to the regret of all members—Mrs. Turketine has had to resign from the office of Hon. Secretary. Mr. N. F. Blackwood has agreed to act as Hon. Secretary till the end of the season.

His address is Flat 2, 4 Third Avenue, Hove, Sussex. Tel.: 71763.

#### HURLINGHAM v. ROEHAMPTON

Played at Hurlingham on Saturday, 4th May

M. B. Reckitt and S. S. Townsend lost to J. A. Hollweg and A. V. Camroux by 6.

A. D. Karmel and General D. J. Wilson-Haffenden bt R. Tingey and Mrs. R. Tingey by 5.

Brig. A. E. Stokes-Roberts and A. W. Skempton lost to Miss D. A. Lintern and Mrs. S. M. Adler by 4.

Result: Roehampton won by two games to one.

This old-established match is always keenly contested and the above results show this year to have been no exception. Roehampton had sent a strong team, buttressed for good measure by the Tingeyes who are paying another welcome visit to England. On a bisque appraisal Roehampton started with something in hand so that Hurlingham can be reasonably satisfied at holding their opponents so closely. The Karmel-Haffenden Wilson partnership proved a successful combination and they played well to beat the Tingeyes, the General coming through very well after a fitful start. Professor Skempton, the least experienced on paper in his game, or indeed in the match, put the rest to shame by getting his clip on the penultimate at a very early stage. The remaining three players pursued a somewhat desultory course, but the game reached an exciting climax with all four for the rover. Miss Lintern's experience then pulled Roehampton through by the narrow margin of four.

In the remaining match, Hollweg was delayed for an hour having been in some dubiety regarding the date of the match. Captain Stoker stood in for a quarter of an hour while the balls were put into play, allowing Camroux to engineer the proceedings until Hollweg appeared. There were no startling breaks in this game, the main feature being the habit of Camroux of being content to hit his roquets with the finest possible margin of touch, the Hurlingham pair regularly rising and falling in their seats in expectation of having the innings. Roehampton narrowly prevailed through Hollweg hitting in twice when Maurice Reckitt was laid prettily for a possible coup de grace.

#### HURLINGHAM v. OXFORD UNIVERSITY

9th May, 1963.

##### Results

(Hurlingham players first)

##### SINGLES

Capt. H. G. Stoker bt P. J. M. Fidler by 21.  
M. B. Reckitt lost to C. G. Miller by 8.  
S. S. Townsend bt M. Robinson by 25.  
Brig. A. E. Stokes-Roberts v. N. Campbell (unfinished).  
Mrs. M. L. Thom bt C. Townsend by 13.  
Mrs. A. W. Skempton bt M. W. Smith by 17.

##### DOUBLES

M. B. Reckitt and S. S. Townsend bt P. J. M. Fidler and M. Robinson by 15.  
Capt. H. G. Stoker and Mrs. M. L. Thom bt C. G. Miller and C. Townsend by 17.  
Brig. A. E. Stokes-Roberts and Mrs. A. W. Skempton lost to N. Campbell and M. W. Smith by 6.  
Hurlingham won by six games to two, with one unfinished.

A powerful Hurlingham team was selected to provide suitable and beneficial practice to what was largely an inexperienced Oxford side. Apart from Peter Fidler and Christopher Miller none had any experience of tournament play, and to have won two games was a creditable performance. Capt. Stoker was in scintillating form against Peter Fidler and the latter received short shrift from one who when in his middle seventies notched the scalps of Cotter and Solomon. Maurice Reckitt found Chris Miller a tough proposition and the latter nearly had his game won at lunch-time after a perfect all-round break. When this game was resumed after the doubles had finished Maurice had to leave, so Captain Stoker stood in for the dying moments and scored two points before his opponent pegged out. The remaining singles call for no comment other than to say that the improving Mrs. Skempton played very fluently to win her game.

The top two doubles were won by Hurlingham with something in hand but the third was a dour struggle. Campbell and Smith know relatively little of tactics but they proceeded to garner a goodly number of points before the Brigadier and his partner got going. The game became more evenly balanced later but with a certain amount of advice tendered by Ian Baillieu (permission being graciously conceded by the Hurlingham pair), the young Oxford pair finally prevailed by six, Smith hitting across the lawn at a critical moment.

The Hurlingham Club are to be thanked for their hospitality and the Oxford team repaired to resume their studies after an enjoyable day.

#### OBITUARY

Colonel C. C. ADAMS, M.C.

This very popular player died on April 20th at the age of 72. He had been playing croquet at Roehampton on the previous Monday when he was the victim of a heart attack. He was taken to Putney Hospital, but survived for only a few days.

Cecil Adams went with the B.E.F. to France at the opening of the first World War and took part in the retreat from Mons; later he was awarded the Military Cross. In the second World War he served in the War Office. It was during this time that he became interested in croquet and spent much of the time that could be spared from his official duties learning the game, not only at Roehampton, but through the winter months at Hurlingham. This he did to such good effect that when tournament play began again in 1946 he was given a handicap of one which was soon reduced to a half. In his second season he became a scratch player. Colonel Adams joined the C.A. Council in this year and five years later became its Chairman during a period of some difficulty, when his wise and serene leadership was of great value. He continued to serve on this body until about two years ago.

Adams played in the President's Cup in 1953 (he had previously won his Silver Medal in 1950), but in the later 'fifties his play fell off somewhat. In recent years, however, he had shown a remarkable recovery of form, as was evidenced not only by a series of good wins in the big Handicap at the Hurlingham tournament last August, as well as by successes in Club events at Roehampton, his home club where he did so much to forward the interests of the game. He was for many years a particularly valuable member of the Surrey team in the County Championship. When at his best he was a remarkably steady player, whom opponents found it more difficult to defeat than they may have expected, for his was not a showy game.

Few players can have been more greatly liked; he was the most generous of men and the friend of everyone who had the good fortune to know him. The deepest sympathy will be felt for Mrs. and Miss Adams, both so warmly regarded at the club which he loved and served so well. M.B.R.

#### Mrs. I. R. de COVERLEY VEALE

After being in poor health for some months, Mrs. I. R. de Coverley Veale died in the middle of April.

She had been a member of the Southwick Club since about 1943 except for a few years when she lived at Clifton, where she and her husband, Dr. F. de Coverley Veale were valued and popular members of the croquet club there. After his death she came back to live in Hove.

We shall all miss her charm and friendliness and our sympathy goes out to Miss G. Forbes Cowan who has lost a much loved sister. M.J.D.

#### L. W. BUCKLEY

Mr. Buckley died suddenly early in May. He was one of those Associates to whom, though they seldom appear in tournaments, the game owes very much indeed. His energies as Secretary of the Reigate Club were untiring and resulted in the creation of a keen nucleus of players from the surrounding district. He had much advice to offer to all those interested in securing publicity for croquet, as witness his article "Let the Trumpets Sound" which appeared in our December number last year, and we may hope was widely read and will be acted upon now a new season has begun. Our sympathies go out to all his friends at Reigate and particularly his wife, and our happy remembrances of him are allied with gratitude for his services.

#### Miss L. ELPHINSTONE-STONE

In the death of their much loved lady on May 23rd, our Association has lost its oldest member and the most notable veteran croquet has ever known. Had she lived another three months she would have been 98, and it is only in the last few seasons that she ceased to be a competitor in the open tournaments at Southwick, which she had made her home since the last war. She had won her silver medal in the very season in which the Association was brought into being, and continued to be in the first flight of lady players for at least half a dozen seasons after this, winning the Women's Gold Medal in 1902 and, of course, numerous other prizes. Perhaps only our veteran vice-president, Mr. Elvey, will remember her play in those days, and in the years before World War I she seldom competed in tournaments. But she came back into the game in the inter-war years, and if she no longer stood where she had done as a leading player, she was a keen competitor who took a lot of beating at her handicap.

Lydia, as the croquet world came to know her, had her little idiosyncrasies, but her unflagging enthusiasm was a delight to us all. When towards the end her sight began to fail she nevertheless retained her interest and was ever anxious to know all that was going forward on the courts she continued to visit. Her zest was a refreshment to all who met her. M.B.R.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

##### Retiring on the Peg

Dear Sir,

I read the note "Retiring on the Peg" with considerable interest. Obligated to leave the following day for the next tournament and finding myself in a winning position, I decided to adopt this course during a tournament in New Zealand. This puzzled my manager very much and she took advice about it and then all agreed that it was an excellent gesture on my part. I received a grateful letter from my opponent who had gone on to win two more rounds.

Yours faithfully,

D. LOCKS LATHAM

Dear Sir,

May I through the Gazette express my opinions *re* the all bisque game. I do not like it, and feel that the long handicap players are having to play a *new* game, and not *croquet* at all.

The joy of playing against a LIVE OPPONENT, is lost, and one has the feeling of being in a "MAZE OF BISQUES".

Yours faithfully,

D. LOCKS LATHAM.

#### A History of Croquet

Dear Sir,

A year ago you were good enough to publish a letter from me telling of my having embarked on "A History of Croquet", the first part of which, in two files, carrying the story down to 1914, was then deposited in the C.A. office. I write again to say that a third file, dealing with the years from 1914 to 1928, has now been placed there. These files are available for consultation on application to the Secretary by any associate who may be interested, but they cannot be sent through the post. The amount of study needed for the completion of the work is still very considerable and it is unlikely that it can be brought down to date before 1965.

Yours faithfully,

MAURICE B. RECKITT

#### HUNSTANTON

April 19th-22nd

Miss Steel must have enjoyed running this small tournament as much as any of the big ones she has managed so successfully in the past. It seemed to have a difference.

Eight young university players (alas no girls), some glorious sunshine and an atmosphere of gaiety and lightheartedness. Everyone seemed to be going for breaks and often getting them. Some beautiful all rounders (with bisques) from medium and high bisquers. The writer took croquet once in one game and never in the next. A big task awaits the handicapping committee.

Mrs. Heley must have felt very gratified by some of her pupils.

Owing to Miss Steel's excellent arrangements, each player got two games each day without fail.

Those who want some early practice next year should not fail to visit this thoroughly enjoyable tournament. They can be assured that Mrs. Clarke and Mrs. Rolfe (who is playing very well), will not only welcome them but assure them of every comfort.

##### BLOCK "A"

NAMES	Handicap	Mrs. P. Heley	C. G. Miller	J. Laursen	Miss Day	D. R. Watson
Mrs. P. Heley .. .. .	3	—	6	6	17	26
C. G. Miller .. .. .	6½	26	—	16	26	26
J. Laursen .. .. .	8	26	26	—	26	26
Miss Day .. .. .	12	26	23	9	—	25
D. R. Watson .. .. .	5½	20	20	4	26	—

Block Winner: J. Laursen.

NAMES	Handicap	D. W. Miller	Dr. H. M. Browning	G. Williams	Mrs. A. N. Rolfe	A. A. Reed	M. Murray
D. W. Miller .. .. .	4	—	26	26	11	26	0
Dr. H. M. Browning .. .	12	11	—	15	26	9	9
G. Williams .. .. .	½	0	26	—	6	26	0
Mrs. A. N. Rolfe .. .. .	7	26	14	26	—	26	10
A. A. Reed .. .. .	0	22	26	24	4	—	7
M. Murray .. .. .	9	26	26	26	26	26	—

Block Winner: M. Murray.

##### Play off

J. Laursen bt M. Murray by 16.







