

Minutes of Meeting of Croq. Sect. Dec. 8th. 1980

Present. R. Peirce M. Holt R. Case
 I. Dwerryhouse K. Holroyde
 G. Cunningham L. Toye

This being the first meeting of the 1980/81 newly elected Croq. Sect. Committee, the proceedings were opened by R. Case, who was asked to continue as Hon. Secy.

After a secret ballot, I. Dwerryhouse was elected as Chairman and G. Cunningham as Vice-chairman.

The Minutes of the Meeting d. Oct. 27th, 1980 were read and confirmed after 2 points (outlined below) had been settled.

(1) The decision that the Award for "outstanding services to the Cub" would be withdrawn was rescinded. instead, it was decided that the Committee should decide annually upon a recipient as before, but ensure that brief reasons for the choice should be given to Members at the ceremony at the A.G.M

(2) Mrs. F. Tovey request for facilities to be given to those who wished to play golf croquet of the "ticketed" variety qw accepted, provided that those concerned were prepared to organise the "draw" process.

R. Peirce was appointed as our representative on the General Committee.

R. Peirce reported upon a Meeting of the G. Man. Com. held on Dec. 7th. 1980. Notice for the Club A.G.M. to be circulated shortly, will give Members full financial details and other proposals to be laid before this A.G.M. The immediate concern of the Croq. Sect. lay in the following recommendations;-

(1) The Croq. Sect. estimates of expenditure were accepted in the main. Action on No. 1 Court, however, would have to await further consideration by experts and others concerned.

(2) Annual Subscriptions within the Cub would be raised to £20.70/annum. Except that Social Members subscriptions would be raised by 20%, the subscriptions within the Croq. Sect. would remain unaltered. This latter recommendation was qualified by a requirement that the Croq. Club Membership should be raised during 1981, from the existing 63 to 75 Members.

After a brief discussion, it was decided that (for the present) L. Toye would kindly commission a poster for exhibition in time for the Club A.G.M., in which the attractions of Croquet would be brought to the attention of Cricketers and other games-playing and Social Members.

L. Toye suggested that a Staff Letter should be issued periodically to keep Members in touch with current events and future proposals: but this proposal did not get general support.

It was considered inadvisable to solicit membership through the Press or by posters in public places. Potential new Members would be offered a special "introductory" free month and training on the lines adopted in the Spring, 1980.

Hon. Secy read a note from the Gen. Manager d. Dec. 1st. 1980, in which he explained inevitable delay in furnishing the Croq. Section with copies of Proceedings of General Committee Meetings, and stressed the necessity for our own Croquet representative

keeping the Croq. Sect. fully informed and up to date in these matters. He acknowledged receipt of the Hon. Secy's Review of the Croq. Sect's activities during 1980 for incorporation in the forthcoming Notice of the Club's A.G.M.

The Chairman stressed the emphasis that Members should place upon the existence of the Club as a whole, and warned against a tendency to fragment the Club's activities into self-interested playing sections. The question of nominating a Croquet Member for the Gen. Man. Committee ballot at the A.G.M. was discussed, but not finally decided, pending discussion with the individuals concerned.

NOTE. Subsequently, John Toye kindly offered to stand for nomination.

The following division of responsibilities within the Croq. Sect. Com. was agreed and will be posted in due course:-

Iris Dwerryhouse - Chairman - controls the working of the Croq. Sect. Com. and oversees the Club's interests generally. R. Peirce and I. Dwerryhouse - organise Assoc. Croquet, Outside and Home Matches, Tournaments and Instructional Courses. R. Peirce maintains liason with the General Management Committee.

G. Cunningham - organises arrangements for Golf Croquet and the Shot Game.

K. Holroyde - supervises and arranges social events.

M. Holt – collaborate with K. Holroyde.

L. Toye - has charge of money matters, oversight of subscriptions and allied subjects.

F. Moores - (temporarily) – liason with General Manager on matters concerning upkeep of croquet lawns and equipment. R. Case - Honorary Secy, publicity, and subjects not listed above.

Proposals for a Winter Programme were deferred until the next Meeting on Thurs, Jan 15th @ 2.00 p.m. In any case, Mon. Feb. 2nd. 1981, was proposed as the first Members' Meeting @ 10.30 a.m. for an "instruction" class. The need to stimulate interest through "innovation" was stressed.

A letter from the Croq. Assoc. d . Nov. 25th. 1980 was read, describing technical difficulties in the manufacture of Jacque's "Eclipse" balls. The Assoc. had tested smooth surfaced balls and accepted them for extended trial. Hon. Secy. said that in anticipation of approval (because of delivery dates imposed) he had ordered a set for trial that was being offered @ £35 instead of the usual price of approx. £50.

It was agreed that if a Croq. Sect. Com. Member was unable to attend a Com. Meeting, he should invite one of the "nominated" members to attend in his place to gain experience in the Section's management. This guest would not be entitled to vote.

The need to nominate a Member of the Croq. Sect. for a place on the Gen. Man. Com's ballot sheet would be brought to the attention of the Members during the Military Whist Drive on Dec. 9th, 1980.

The next Croq. Sect. Com Meeting would be on Thurs. Jan. 15th @ 2.00 p.m. in the Pavilion.

MINUTES - Croq. Sect. Jan. 15th. 1981.

<u>Present</u>	I. Dwerryhouse	G. Cunningham
	R. Peirce	K. Holroyde
	L. Toye	R. Case

M. Kirke (non-voting Invited Member) vice H. Holt was welcomed to the Committee.

Business arising from the Minutes. R.P. gave his report on the recent management meeting. The requirement that the Croq. Sect. should increase its membership to 75 was not mandatory, but a position that should be striven for during 1981. Minutes of Gen. Man. Meetings were laid upon the table and would be made available to the Croq. Sect.

for the future. Efforts were being made to find a whole or part time Treasurer for the Cricket Club.

Besides representing the Croq. Sect. on the General Man. Com. R.P. had agreed to serve on the "Grounds and Property Committee" and this would enable R.P. conveniently to take over the responsibilities undertaken, up to the present, by F. Moores. NOTE: the croq. sect gladly accepted this offer, in the event of F. Moore's departure. The Management Committee wished to have a representative from the Croq. Sect. on the "social" side. NOTE. The Croq. Sect. thanked K. Holroyde for offering to take over this responsibility, and Hon. Secy. undertook officially to advise the Gen. Manager accordingly. It was understood that this Social Sub-Committee would meet infrequently.

The Croq. Sect. asked L. Toye to convey to John Toye. their thanks for consenting to nomination for the Main Management Committee. They hoped that his offer would stand for 1982. The ballot arrangements had been open to criticism and these matters would, it was hoped, be cleared up before the next A.G.M. - presumably through the new Rules that were currently under consideration. The Committee's thanks were extended also to Jane Toye for producing an excellent recruiting poster for use within the Club.

R. Peirce kindly offered to follow up an enquiry from Mrs Peggs regarding Membership. Other than this, no specific action was visualised for recruitment for the present.

K. Holroyde was asked to explain her carefully worked out scheme for "Sponsored Croquet" which had been designed primarily for fund-raising purposes. However, the Chairman said that fundraising would, for the future, be a "centrally controlled" activity rather than a "sectional" one. Nonetheless, the scheme could be adapted for other purposes and would be passed to R.P. to consider with other proposals for stimulating interest among players. K. H. was thanked for all the considerable trouble that she had taken.

The Committee then considered a variety of suggestions for stimulating interest in the coming 1981 season.

1. L Toye suggested that a "Rabbit Cup" should be played for by the 12 and over handicaps.
2. A "4-somes tournament" for less experienced players, each pair being "shepherded" by an experienced person.
3. Two practice areas, bookable, should be prepared, with 2 hoops each.
4. To eliminate lengthy "sittings-out", matches between good and poor players should be arranged imposing a "cut-off" of say, 2 hoops for the strong players, at which point the

weaker player would be entitled to a lift and "contact" either of his balls with any other. This might make an interesting variant of the "bisque" form of handicapping.

R. P. was asked kindly to see what could be done. In the meantime, he would arrange for copies of the following programme to be distributed by Member's when distributing tickets for the forthcoming Annual Luncheon.

Feb. 2nd. Monday. @ 10.30 a.m. New Members. Simple explanation of the Game of Assoc. Croq. Mallets and balls (inside demonstration). The 4-ball break, with the magnetic board.

Mar. 2nd. Monday @ 10.30 a.m. Intermediate standard. The simpler laws. Definition of faults. Demonstration on magnetic board.

Mar. 23rd. Monday @ 10.30 a.m. All Members. The more complicated laws. Cannons. Demonstration on magnetic board.

Apr. 1st. Wednesday from 12.30 p.m. Annual Lunch (Royal Glen Hotel).

Apr. 6th. Monday @ 10.30 a.m. (provisional) Pat Tunmer to show a croquet film, with commentary.

Apr. 27th, Monday @ 10.30. a.m. Instructional session.

Tues. Evenings sessions will continue in which it is hoped that experienced players will lead teams of less experienced players in Association Croquet – from 6 p.m.

Wednesday afternoons, from 2.00 p.m., there will be either Golf Croquet or the Shot Game on Nos. 2 and 3. Courts

A seminar will be held at Hurlingham on Feb. 28th. Saturday, with the object of producing a manual on Coaching. L. Toye was asked to find out if John Toye. would care to attend on behalf of the Croq. Section. In this event, his travelling expenses would be defrayed by the Club. Failing this, the Chairman would consider going.

It was decided that one free ticket would be allotted for the Annual Luncheon for the Press. The cost of each ticket would be £3.70.

The next Meeting of the Croq. Sect. was fixed for Feb. 11th. Wednesday @ 2.00 p.m. in the Pavilion.

J Derryhouse

Minutes Croq Sect. dated Wed Feb. 11th 1981.

Present I. Dwerryhouse M. Kirke (by invitation)
R. Peirce R. Case
K. Holroyde

Apologies. G. Cunningham and L. Toye.

Business arising. The Chairman said that the cost of a complimentary ticket for Mr.

Whitton would be met by any balance remaining after 52 lunch tickets had been sold. Apart from Chairman (with Mr. Whitton) and H. Secy. (with Herald representative), Members of the Committee would distribute themselves among the other tables.

Competition and training. L. Toye's suggestion regarding "Rabbits" competition would be renamed "Single High Bisquers" for 14 handicaps and over. As a stimulus towards follow-up tactics, each player would receive his full number of bisques, adjusted possibly on a "time" basis. I. Dwerryhouse generously offered to give a "perpetual" cup for the winner of event.

"Alternating Doubles" should be tried-out for "Club nights" a method in which experienced players would alternate shots with the less experienced

Open tournaments Singles and Doubles entries should be in by May 29th. Finishing dates should be published.

The booking of a film on "Croquet" would be deferred until more information became available from Budleigh.

Hon. Secy would purchase dowel pin rods and sharpen them, while K. Holroyde would get them painted. These additional bisque pins would be needed for the "High Bisquers" games.

The Chairman's and R. Peirce's "Introductory Talk" on Feb. 2nd. Was well attended and much appreciated.

R. Peirce reported briefly on the Management and Grounds Com meeting on Feb. 1st. The Committee reviewed the work programme and the Groundsman was brought into consultation.

The question of J. Toye's expenses to be incurred during his visit to the Hurlingham Seminar was raised. Note Hon. Secy. phoned J.T. subsequently. He proposed charging only the cost of petrol.

Hon. Secy. queried whether the Club should purchase an additional set of smooth skinned balls at the current advantageous prices. It was decided that for the present it would suffice to use the 8 wooden balls recently presented, and R. Peirce kindly offered to paint them suitably.

It was decided that nothing much was to be gained by printing our croquet fixtures in the Club Cricket fixture lists.

The Committee noted with regret the following resignations

Mrs. Roach
Vincent Stirrup

J Dwerryhouse

Chairman

MINUTES Croq. Sect. - Monday, March 16th. 1981.

Present I. Dwerryhouse M. Kirke (vice M. Holt)
K. Holroyde B. Eastaugh (vice L. Toye)
Reg. Peirce R. Case

Apologies. G. Cunningham. L. Toye

Business arising from previous Minutes.

R Peirce said that the ball situation was as follows:

8 useable sets, of which

2 sets of which were double bank colours

2 sets of wooden balls

1 set of smooth walled balls (on order)

There were 7 sets of clips, of which 2 sets were double bank colours.

The draft Press Release (below) for the Luncheon on Apr. 1st was approved, subject to verification of the "100 years" statement.

A print of Sidmouth was selected for presentation to Fred and Betty Moores immediately after the Luncheon. This would remain a secret until the time concerned. B. Eastaugh would collect funds. (£10.20). The terms of an inscription were approved.

I Dwerryhouse would undertake to make suitable arrangements with the management of Royal Glen that would facilitate speed of service of items on the menu.

If a photographer became available, the Committee would Assemble immediately before the luncheon. The Committee would, in any case, distribute themselves singly among the various tables before the admission of Members.

Item 6, Agenda. R. Peirce reported briefly on his Meeting of the Grounds and Man. Com. (chaired by b. Fitzgerald). He explained proposals for extension of the Mallet Room, and for repairs to the roof of the small Pavilion. Work on rehabilitation of the No. 1 Court would be deferred until the autumn.

Item 8. Agenda. Training. A summary of J. Toye's visit to the Training Seminar at Hurlingham was given to the Meeting and thanks of the Committee were given for his valuable contribution. An official Manual of Training will, presumably, be issued in due course.

The Croquet Film was unsuitable for use by Sidmouth Croq. Section on Apr. 6th. Instead, it was hoped to give some outdoor instruction if weather permits.

Crystallising a considerable discussion, R. Peirce would contact, say, 6 Members willing to undertake coaching. A training syllabus, based on the methods adopted last year, would be issued, and a meeting arranged for settlement of further details.

The following coaches were suggested, tentatively:

I. Dwerryhouse J. Holt R. Case
P. Dwerryhouse M. Holt A. Verity J. Toye

It seemed probable that there would be 11 prospective "beginners" for tuition. 2 half

Lawns would be laid out on No. 2 Court for use in training until the end of May. A "Coach's Meeting" would, if possible, be arranged for Apr. 4th, details would be announced during the Luncheon on Apr. 1st.

Hon. Secy. suggested a scheme for "sponsoring", say, 6 of the more promising inexperienced players, with a view to their intensive training. Discussion showed that there were some practical difficulties and the proposal was dropped. An alternative that was more favourably received, was that in order to relieve coaches of another unduly burdensome task, "intermediate" stage players should undertake to play with and train "beginners".

Item 11. Agenda. B. Eastaugh announced that he held £23.40 arising from social events. It was probable that some £10 profit would arise from the Whist drive to be held on Mar. 17th. He was authorised to pay J. Toye the sum of £10 to cover expenses for the Hurlingham trip. Furthermore, £10.20 was to be paid to R. Case against the purchase of the Print for F. and B. Moores.

The next Croq. Sect. Meeting will be held @ 2.00 p.m. On Thurs. May 7th, in the Pavilion.

J Derryhouse

Chairman

Draft Press release – Apr. 1st. 1981

The Croquet Section of the Sidmouth Cricket, Lawn Tennis, Croquet and Hockey Club held their Annual Luncheon in the Royal Glen hotel on Wednesday, April 1st. It was attended by about Members, all of whom eagerly await the opening of the season towards the end of this month, on the 3 courts which adjoin the Cricket Ground.

The Croquet Section is believed to have started life in Sidmouth over 100 years ago. It has grown from the original one lawn and eleven members to three lawns and over 50 members.

The increase in popularity of the game has stemmed from the intriguing complexity of the game, which demands skill comparable with that needed for billiards or snooker. Indeed, it is claimed that Association Croquet, in its modern form, is the most intelligent of all outdoor games.

There is also a social attractiveness, which is fostered by simpler forms of team games, such as Glf croquet and other events.

There are still a few vacancies. Prospective members will be given a course of tuition free of cost or obligation, until the end of May.

The Sidmouth Croquet Section is affiliated with the All England Croquet Association, which has its headquarters in Hurlingham. Its current campaign to bring croquet to the notice of a wider public has been very successful.

Not many people know that the world-famous tennis Lawns in Wimbledon owe their reputation for perfection to the fact that they started life as croquet lawns. The location has been slightly changed, but large patches of the original fine grass still exist after more than 100 years.

The Sidmouth lawns cannot claim to rival the perfection of the present day Wimbledon Tennis Lawns; but croquet players of repute claim that two of the 3 courts compare favourably with any Courts in the country. It is confidently expected that the recent recruitment of Mr. Ian Haffenden, the new groundsman, will result in cricket pitches and croquet lawns that will rival in quality some of the best available in England.

Minutes - Croquet Section - May 7th. 81.

Present. I. Dwerryhouse R. Peirce
G Cunningham K. Holroyde M. Holt R. Case.
Apologies. L. Toye.

The following letter were read:

H. Case (Sidmouth Herald) to thank Committee for lunch. Hon. Secy's letter to F. and B. Moores, regarding their departure to Africa.

Secy. Croq. Assoc. letter d. 2.4.81, concerning issue of un-milled balls and request for a full report upon them at the end of the 1981 season. It was decided that un-milled balls (1 set) should be reserved for Tournaments involving the more experienced players.

The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Mallet Room had been expanded. As an extension to amenities, G. Cunningham kindly offered to arrange for volunteers to decorate the interior of the Small Pavilion.

R. Peirce's Report on Man. Com. affairs. He had arranged with the Groundsman for certain improvements in the alignment of the croquet hoops. There was concern over the condition of No. 1 Court, and it was hoped to put considerable work into it at the end of the 1981 season. The Small Pavilion roof and door fastenings had been seen to. Court No. 2 would be returned to single court use at the end of May. It was hoped that 10 or 12 chairs would be made available for the Croquet section to replace those worn out.

Having considered these points, the Committee decided that Hon. Secy. should post a notice, giving reasons, for denying the use of Court No. 1 for other than Croq. (Association) until further notice. Insistence should be placed upon the wearing of flat heeled shoes.

It was accepted that the programming of the Demonstration on May 23rd. should be dealt with by Hon. Secy. on the lines employed last year; but the Committee wished to have the following points demonstrated, inter alia, Explanation of "Yard Line Cannon". Crush Shot, Getting through hoops from straight behind, Wiring positions and consequent action, Standard openings, Pegging out. Iris. Dwerryhouse would get into touch with P. Tunmer with a view to arranging for a talk or demonstration.

Entry forms for competitions were posted, with a final date at end of May.

Hon. Secy. had asked for a "Walker" Mallet catalogue. It will be posted in due course.

R. Peirce would arrange with J. Hollands for a check of Membership from the index cards.

The problem of ensuring availability of keys for the Mallet Room and the Small Pavilion was discussed, but without finding a solution. The problem would be raised again at the next meeting.

Golf Croquet would start on Weds. June 3rd. @ 2.00 p.m. It was considered that picnic teas would be an enjoyable adjunct to these occasions. Hon. Secy. would post a list of "Wednesday" fixtures.

Club evenings would continue as previously on Tuesdays each week. The form of croquet to be played then would be decided as experience suggested.

G Cunningham would see whether it would be possible to arrange for a Budleigh / Sidmouth Golf Croquet Tournament.

The Next Meeting was fixed for June 15th, Monday @ 10.30 a.m.

J Dwerryhouse
Chairman

Minutes of Croquet Sect. Meeting d. June 15th 1981.

Present. I. Dwerryhouse B. Eastaugh G.
Cunningham K. Holroyde.
R. Peirce R. Case.

Apologies. L. Toye. M. Holt.

R. Peirce, "said that he would report the break-in of the Small Pavilion and the problem of keys and tower bolt to his G. and M. Committee. He had made a tactful approach to the groundsman and mentioned "embarrassment" at the state of our lawns during the visit of our guests from Budleigh. Admittedly, the persistent bad weather was a factor. A special watch would be kept upon the wearing of flat heeled shoes.

The Chairman reported that Pat Tunmer had kindly agreed to attend a "quiz" on No. 1 Court on Monday, July 6th, from 10.00 till 12.00. Details would be worked out beforehand and Members were invited to submit ideas. Hon. Secy. would post a notice.

H. Peirce explained circumstances which led to resignation of J. Hollands. The Club was already some £1200 down on revenue this year; so there was no prospect of getting new chairs. It was suggested that Members might care to 'Provide their own, stamped with their own name. The hanging of Valerie Collier's picture in the Club had been accepted with thanks. G. Cunningham had been thanked by the Committee for her generous gift towards expenses incurred in improvements to the Small Pavilion. Proposals for "winter" tennis courts opposite to the Fortfield flats were given for the Committee's information. Hon. Secy. had provided and re-sited a booking desk in the Mallet Room.

The Committee accepted with much regret a letter of resignation from L. Toye. Their regrets would be conveyed in a letter from Hon. Secy. Bob Eastaugh kindly volunteered to take over his duties and was co-opted on the Committee accordingly.

The Committee heard, with great regret, of the death of Leslie Kirke. Iris and Robert had sent condolences from the Committee.

Chairman said that she would examine the "Walker" mallet during a forthcoming visit in that area, and report.

Hon. Secy's draft reply to A. Verity's letter to Iris d. May 26th. was approved and has been delivered.

A draft congratulatory letter to the Editorial Board of the Croquet Gazette was approved and despatched.

Lists for "internal" competitions have been posted. Handicaps have been reviewed.

The results and future of the Training Programme were reviewed. Exceptionally inclement weather and current Budleigh Tournaments had reduced the results anticipated. It was decided that not much more could be done, except to encourage the less experienced to play as much as possible.

Several new players were showing promise.

The Herald had given publicity to the winning of the Walters Long Handicap Challenge Trophy and the Daldry Cups at Budleigh during the 2nd. week of May.

The Demonstration by H. Hicks and J. Toye on May. 2nd. had been an enjoyable success and was well attended.

An appeal for subscribers to the Croquet Gazette issued by the Association had been posted in the Mallet Room.

It was decided that No. 1 Court should remain closed to "competition" type golf croquet, pending further results from this decision.

Three of our players had further successes in a Budleigh Tournament. Iris was arranging for publicity in the Herald.

The Hon. Secy. was asked to procure another dozen Pimm's "Spectators Guide" if they could be made available.

The Chairman and Hon. Secy. attended the funeral of Sylvia Norton; but there was no opportunity of conveying their personal condolences

Golf Croquet fixture for Wed. July 29th. was cancelled because of the Royal Wedding.

Next Meeting will be held in the Small Pavilion on Monday, July 27th., at 2.30 p.m.


Chairman

Dear Iris,

I was a little taken aback on Saturday when you briefly mentioned the Golf Croquet programme, I am very sorry if there has been a misunderstanding but the programme is very different to what I had in mind when I spoke at the A.G.M. and to you later.

At the AGM I was thinking of the many older members who had expressed to me their wish for a reversion to the Golf afternoons as they used to be with the organised tea break which was an important part of the social pleasure. These were held only once a month and were a very minor part of the Club's interest which was Assoc. Croquet.

When, at the AGM a committee member said that the reason for the change was difficulty in organisation and lack of members to do it I was most surprised as I was never aware of this and felt that the number problem could be solved. I therefore supported the request for a reversion. I agree that later I gave you an indication that I would take on the work involved. My offer was on the basis of a complete reversion both of form and frequency not the programme now decided upon.

Apart from the pleasure side I am most concerned that one half or maybe whole day each week (two lawns) will be given to Golf or Shot Game. I think this too high a reduction in lawn availability for the Club game, Assoc. Croquet, also too heavy a load on the lawns in their condition, very detrimental to their recovery which the groundsman is trying to achieve. The excess wear and tear on many expensive balls also justifies consideration.

You may recall that during my period on the committee, experience made us consider the safety factor and danger of many people on the lawns while cricket was in play, it was decided that Golf afternoons would not be held on dates that cricket was to be played. The availability of the pavilion for our social tea break was also felt to justify restricting golf to non-cricket days.

As I have the conviction that one afternoon per month when there is no cricket is the maximum that should be arranged, I regret that I do not feel inclined to be involved in any way with the proposed programme. I believe this whichever form of golf is to be played.

I do trust Iris that my decision and expression of view will not in any way be regarded as personal, you know how much I hate having to say "no" to you at any time.

Kindest regards Alfred.

Draft reply to A. Verity's letter d. 26. 5. 81 to Iris

Your letter to Iris d. 26. 5. 81

Your letter was put before the Committee on June 15th and I have been asked to reply to you.

It is, of course, much regretted that the current programme for the two forms of Golf Croquet and the Shot Game have failed to win your personal support.

The Committee place a high priority on the social activities of the Club and believe that their policy will help to maintain the high level of membership essential to its very existence.

Experience has shown that Golf Croquet and the Shot Game promote these ends, and it is hoped that an increasing interest in Association Croquet will be a logical development. The soundness of the policy will be tested by the results.

Replying to some points in detail:

The condition of the lawns is under continuous review by our representative on the Grounds and Management Committee. Meetings, attended by the Groundsman, are held regularly and reports made to the Croquet Committee.

Members are as aware of stray cricket balls as the numerous spectators who ring the pitch. The degree of risk is for them to assess.

A large number of players, for a variety of reasons, decided to bring picnic teas for Golf Croquet and the Shot Game instead of taking tea in the large pavilion. The small pavilion has been redecorated.

The Committee very much regrets your decision to disassociate yourself from their programme, and hope a volunteer will be found from amongst its advocates to organise the "F" type game

Yours sincerely Hon.

Secy.

DRAFT letter to Editor, Croquet Gazette.

The Sidmouth Cricket Club (Croquet Section) wishes to congratulate the Editorial Board of the Croquet. Gazette (No. 159 Issue of April 1981) on the excellence of this publication.

It contained valuable notes for the expert and less experienced, extracts from publications no longer available except in a few libraries, technical notes and diagrams to fascinate the "back room boys" and social news and photographs. Altogether a coverage that could hardly be bettered and excellent value for the subscribers. Yours faithfully, Hon. Secy.

Minutes of Croquet Sect. Meeting - July 27th. 1981.

Present I. Dwerryhouse B. Eastaugh M. Holt.
G. Cunningham K. Holroyde
R. Peirce R. Case.

I. Dwerryhouse reported that she would examine the Walker type of mallet shortly.

Hon. Secy. said that he would remind the Croq. Assoc. to send ½ doz. Pimm Pamphlets.

R. Peirce had arranged for Small pavilion keys to be clipped to a board in order to ensure their return after use. He said that there was a general agreement within the Maintenance Committee that the lawns needed better attention. The Groundsman might be shewn the Budleigh Courts to give him an idea of what is possible. No. 1 Court might have to be closed at the end of September for renovation purposes. John Hollands would retire at the end of August, and future arrangements were being considered by the Main Committee. R. Peirce thought that the prospects of improving Membership in the Croquet Section were slim for 1981 Season. The current Membership (subject to check) was thought to be about 60.

The extent of success of the "high Bisque" type of tournament was discussed. K. Holroyde and Bob Eastaugh (both of them participants) were not favourably impressed, because (mainly) the bisque system proved to be confusing. Other members thought that the resulting continuity of play outweighed other disadvantages. R.P. proposed that during the non-playing season, the principles of using bisques might be taught. The subject would be put before the A.G.M. for discussion.

R.P was asked to consider correcting a series of hoops that "ran back" owing to excessive wear.

It was expected that 60, or more, Members and guests might turn up for the Cheese and Wine Party Jul. 29th.

Iris said that there would be a Gymkhana at Budleigh on Saturday, Aug. 15th, starting at 2.00 p.m. Hon. Secy. suggested that having created a healthy interest, particularly amongst the newer Members, we should strive to keep up its momentum. There might be new ideas to be picked up at Budleigh. Members would endeavour to think up some interesting events. It was decided to hold our own Gymkhana Sept. 7th. Monday @ 2.00 p.m., with tea in the Main Pavilion.

Marion Holt suggested that mornings would suit many people better than afternoon for Golf Croquet. It was decided to make a test by changing Golf Croquet & the Shot Game over to mornings from the end of August. The subject would be discussed during the next A.G.M.

B. Eastaugh had looked into the Membership position. 51 Members have paid up; but the records have not been maintained satisfactorily. The whole question of office administration will doubtless be brought under review following upon J. Holland's resignation.

Following upon a recent slight confusion in the allotment of courts and players on Club Evenings, K. Holroyde suggested that a Committee Member should (in turn) be present to organise matters. The Committee were in full agreement, and K. H. was authorised to put up a notice accordingly.

The following rota was agreed:

R. Peirce	Aug 4th	M. Holt	Aug. 11th	K. Holroyde	Aug. 18th
I. Dwerryhouse	Aug. 25th	R. Peirce	Sept. 1st.		

Hon. Secy. reported that on Aug. 25th. afternoon, 4 children were playing on No. 2 Court. They had been authorised to play by J. Hollands and had paid him £2 for the privilege. The Committee found this totally unacceptable and I. D. had conveyed this opinion to J.H. Next Meeting in the Small Pavilion on Aug. 24th, Monday, at 10.30 a.m.

 **Dwerryhouse**
Chairman

Minutes - Croq. Sect. Meeting, Thurs. Aug. 24th. 1981.

Present. Iris Dwerryhouse K. Holroyde
G. Cunningham M. Holt
R. Peirce B. Eastaugh
R. Case.

It was noted that J. Toye possessed a Walker Mallet and reported favourable upon it.

R. Peirce reported that the condition of the lawns would doubtless be considered by the new Committee of the Cricket Club. He would present our views. He reported that J. Holland had resigned on July 31st. 1981. A notice in the main Pavilion listed the names and duties of the new Administration. A check was being made on cards for paid-up Members.

77 people had attended the recent Cheese and Wine Party, and £64.31 had been collected by the combined Croquet and Tennis Members.

14 Members attended the Budleigh Gymkhana and found the events very enjoyable. It is understood that some £300 was collected.

R. Peirce had taken-up with the Main Committee the question of under 16s being permitted to play croquet. It was intended, at some time, to revise the Cricket Club Rules of Constitution. ~~R. P. would also find out if there was any real objection to the use of Banker's Orders for the payment of Annual Subscriptions.~~

The Committee confirmed Monday Sept. 14th, 2.00 till 5.00 p.m. for the forthcoming Gala. 10p would be charged for each event. The events would be arranged on Courts 2 and 3. There would be 11 sections:

1. Roquet, straight. B and M Eastaugh
2. Staggered Hoops. Six. R. Peirce.
3. Target, round, 9 balls of different types. P. Dwerryhouse. (Paint brush and radius string reqd).
4. Inclined plane (subject to experiment). R. Case.
5. Bingo, 3 balls (details to be settled). P. Dwerryhouse.
6. Bowls. A and J. Reid.
7. Straight Hoops, 1 ball. R. P and A. Harding.
8. Pendulum, 5 balls. R. Case and F. Fermor. (Subject to experiment.)
9. Cake Stall.)

I Harding

10. White elephant.)
11. Hidden Coin. Marion and Cunningham (if available).

Tea, plus two biscuits, would be charged @15p, and served in Main Pavilion, from 3.00p.m.

Posters would be arranged by I. Dwerryhouse.

NOTE. Later, it was decided to settle details at a Meeting in the Small Pavilion on Thurs. Sept 3rd 10.00. The opportunity would be taken, additionally, of discussing proposals for recruiting the Croq. Sect. Committee.

Hon. Secy. would prepare a budget forecast for submission to the Cricket Main Committee. R. P. would ascertain the date by which this should be delivered. The Croq. Sect. Annual Report would be submitted at the same time. Hon. Secy would post a Notice that Club Evenings would start at 3.30 P.M. from Sept 8th. inclusive.

Hon. Secy. would post a suitable Notice inviting Members to donate a suggested 0.50p each for a Groundsman's Benefit. Donations to be handed to B. Eastaugh.

Hon. Secy. would post a Notice declaring an A.G.M. for the Croq. Section in the Main Pavilion on Weds. Nov. 11th, 1981 @ 2.30 p.m. Tea and biscuits would be provided.

Reports for this Meeting would be prepared by the Hon. Secy. on general matters, by R. Peirce on tournaments, handicaps, lawns and similar subjects, and by B. Eastaugh on the accounts. These reports should be drafted in time for the Croq. Sect. meeting on Mon. Nov. 2nd. @10.30 a.m. in the Main Pavilion.

During the A.G.Meeting, the Chairman would invite a discussion and Members' views about the merits, or demerits, of the trial of Golf Croquet.& the Short Game in morning sessions; and attempt to settle preferred timings for 1982. Opinions on advancing Club Evenings to 3.30 p.m. would be sought.

Similarly, views would be invited on the success, or otherwise, of the "high bisque" system for beginners' tournaments. They should be informed that R. Peirce would give a talk on the use of bisques during the Winter Session.

Subject to suggestions from the Committee, the Chairman would comment upon proposed timings for 1982 Booking Sheets.

Subject to the Committee's approval, Hon. Secy. Would post in A Notice announcing the A.G.M., proposals for guidance in the election and terms of service of Committee Members. These proposals should, if agreement can be reached, be endorsed by the A.G.M. It is proposed that the operative word in these proposals should be "proposals" and not "rules".

The next meeting would be held in the Main Pavilion 10.30 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 2nd.

Note. Because a number of details remained outstanding, it was agreed that the next meeting should be brought forward to Thurs. Sept 3rd.@ 10.00 a.m. in the Small Pavilion.

The date and time for the Nov. 2nd. Meeting would stand unaltered.

Chairman.

J Derryhouse
Chairman

Minutes - Croq. Sect. Meeting - Thurs, Sept. 3rd. 1981.

Present. I. Dwerryhouse B. Eastaugh
M. Holt K. Holroyde
R. Peirce R. Case

Apologies. G. Cunningham.

The Meeting was called primarily to settle locations for events and detailed arrangements for the Gala on Monday, Sept. 14th. These were settled to the Committee's satisfaction.

The opportunity was taken of reviewing past arrangements under which the Croq. Sect. Committee was elected and their length of service determined.

The Chairman explained that she and the Hon. Secy. had spent a considerable time checking through the Minutes, but no formal agreement seemed to have been reached. The committee agreed that this was an unsatisfactory situation.

It was agreed unanimously that, at the Annual General Meeting on Weds. Nov. 11th. 1981 it should be proposed that, in future, the procedure should be:

- (a) The existing Committee would resign en bloc at the time of the Croq. Sect. A.G.M.
- (b) when publishing the Notice for the Croq. Sect. A.G.M. a Form of Invitation for Nominees for a Committee of 7 Members should be posted.
- (c) Nominees would require to be proposed and seconded by Members and signify their willingness to serve.
- (d) Committee Members willing to serve again would offer themselves for election through the procedure outlined in (c).
- (e) Nominees names would be listed on a Ballot Form for Secret Voting during the Croq. Sect. A.G.M.
- (f) The names of the newly elected Members would be announced and a proposed date and time for their first Meeting.
- (g) The new Committee would select a Chairman by Secret Ballot at their first Meeting.
- (h) The existing Chairman and Committee would relinquish their posts at the conclusion of the C.S. A.G.M.
- (i) The following procedure is intended to cover contingencies:
 - i) If nominations equal the number of vacancies, all the Nominees will be accepted as Committee Members, subject to confirmation by show of hands.
 - (2) If Nominations are fewer than vacancies, those nominated will be accepted as Committee Members (subject to confirmation by show of hands at the A.G.M.) and any balance filled by co-option by the elected Committee at their first Meeting.
 - (3) If a vacancy occurs between elections (other than as in item (2)) it would be filled by co-option.

The Committee settled the Rota, until the end of October, for supervision of the 3.30 p.m. Club Afternoons.

The next C.S. Com. Meeting would be held on Monday, Nov. 2nd, @ 10.30 a.m. in the Main Pavilion.

 **Dwerryhouse**

Chairman

Minutes. Croq. Sect. Meeting - Monday, Nov. 2nd. 1981

Present. I Dwerryhouse R. Eastaugh
M. Holt K. Holroyde
R. Peirce R. Case.

Apologies. G. Cunningham.

The Minutes of the Meeting of Sept. 3rd. were passed.

Hon. Secy. undertook to have Ballot Sheets prepared for distribution at the A.G.M.

I. Dwerryhouse and R. Peirce undertook to prepare a questionnaire for distribution at the A.G.M. covering matters on which the Committee wished to ascertain the views (in brief) of Members.

H. Peirce reported on the Club's Main Committee's provisional findings on finance and prospects. L. Sage had kindly deputised for him at the last Meeting. The Main Club's Annual General Meeting had been fixed for Mon. Nov. 30th. 7.30 p.m. The position was such that tight control of expenditure was necessary. Work on the lawns would be limited to whatever was necessary.

Hon. Secy. was asked to limit the Croq. Sect. Financial Estimate to £50 against one set of balls. He would approach J. Toye to find if he could make up 3 sets of ball racks.

Hon. Secy. was asked to report to the Association that although it was difficult to be specific, the general opinion was that

- (a) the serrated ball was preferred to the smooth type.
- (b) although our trial set had been but little used, a hair crack had developed on one ball.
- (c) the balls could not easily be placed in contact for "take-offs".
- (d) in wet weather, there was a tendency to "slip" off smooth mallet faces, for reasons that (probably) caused tyre manufacturers to serrate their tyres.

It was proposed (subject to check of records) that the "Most improved Cup" should be awarded to V. Collier, for 1981. The Chairman explained the reasons for a proposal to present E. Corbett with the "Meritorious" Cup in 1981. She had, for several years, proved to be a staunch Member who had quietly done much, both for the Club and for individual Members. The suggestion was approved, with acclamation.

Changes in handicaps were approved and would be read out to Members during the A.G.M. E. Corbett wished to resign from the Handicap Committee. A new Committee would be set up after the A.G.M.

Reports to be read at the A.G.M. were approved.

Hon. Treas. reported that there were 53 "paid-up" playing Members. The collection for the Groundsman's benefit amounted, to date, to £15. Possibly more might be collected during the A.G.M.

Arrangements for the next Com. Meeting, would be made after conclusion of the A.G.M.

The Committee approved that a contribution on "Mechanisation of the Roquet" by Hon. Secy. Should be sent to the editor, Croquet Gazette.

 **Dwerryhouse**
Chairman

NOTICE

Regarding ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Croquet Section ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held in the Cricket Pavilion on Wednesday, Nov. 11th. 1981 at 2.30 p.m.

Nominations for Membership of the Committee must reach the Hon. Secy. not later than Sat. Oct. 31st. Each nominee must be proposed and seconded by a Member, after having ascertained that the nominee will agree to serve on the Committee.

The Hon. Secy. should be advised beforehand if any Member wishes to include any subject for discussion on the Agenda.

Members will be invited to express their views, during the A.G.M. on the Committees proposals for Committee Membership rules. The following notes are intended for information of Members.

Background.

There is no formal constitution for the Croquet Section of the Cricket Club. Experience has shown this to be a desirable and convenient arrangement.

In 1978, 4 nominees were elected by show of hands, and a Committee of 10 Members was formed.

In 1979, no nominations for the Committee were received and a Committee of 8 Members was re-elected by show of hands.

Your Committee decided (Aug. 18th. 1980) that "final proposals regarding a proposed three-year-service on the Committee and proposals for nominations" should be agreed before the AGM of Nov. 1980; but no final decision was reached.

In 1980, for the first time, a secret ballot was held. There were 10 nominees for 6 vacancies. Of the nominees, 2 who had held office more than 3 years were elected, and one Member with 2 years' service remained automatically on the Committee - which now has 7 Members.

The Committee now seek confirmation by the A.G.M. of the following proposals:

1. Committee Members to be elected for 3 years in office.
2. They then resign and become ineligible for reelection for 1 year following the year of resignation.
3. Vacancies to be filled, if possible, from nominations. The number of vacancies to be shown on the Notice inviting nominees.
4. If the nominations outnumber vacancies, the vacancies to be filled by an A.G.M. secret ballot.
5. If nominations equal the number of vacancies, all the nominees will be accepted as Committee Members, subject to a show of hands by the A.G.M.
6. If nominations are fewer than vacancies, those nominated will be accepted as Committee Members (subject to confirmation by show of hands by the A.G.M. and any balance filled by co-option by the elected Committee with validity of 1 year only.
7. ~~Notwithstanding these proposals, the Committee would remain vested with discretionary powers.~~

8. The proposals above, if confirmed by the A.G.M. (1981), will apply from the end of the 1982 season.

In the meantime, the Committee recommend that Iris Dwerryhouse should continue during 1982 as a Committee Member, thereby extending her membership to 4 years before resignation; and

B. Eastaugh (co-opted vice L. Toye in 1981) should be elected as Committee Member for 3 years' service.

NOTE

It will be desirable, during 1982, to devise measures to correct the "bunching" arising from the election of 4 new Committee Members that occurred during the Ballot of 1980.

Hon. Secy.

A.G.M. Croquet Pavilion - Croquet Sect - Nov. 11th. 1981. 3.00 p.m.

Present. I. Dwerryhouse M. Holt R. Case.
R. Peirce R. Eastaugh
G. Cunningham K. Holroyde

There was a total attendance of 40 Members.

Apologies. C. Willcock. F and K. Ellicott. D and S. Hawkins M and A. Davis. M. Hart. A. Verity.

The Chairman opened proceedings by welcoming the 40 Members who came to the Meeting and expressing the Committee's appreciation of their support. Sadly, she had to record the loss, by death, of two Members, S. Norton and L. Kirke during the year.

The Minutes of the A.G.M. d. Nov. 10th. 1980 were read and confirmed. No further business arose from the Minutes.

The Hon. Secy. read his report, commenting briefly on the Croquet Section's good relations with the Main Cricket Section. He emphasised the part that participation in combined events, such as Competitions, Golf Croquet, Club Evenings and similar, played in maintaining the friendly spirit on which the Section prided itself.

R. Peirce reported upon the various success, both internal and external, achieved by our players. The training programme had not been helped by the inclement weather at the beginning of the season. Nevertheless, there had been a marked improvement in the standard of play, and many players had been able to reduce their handicaps. The state of the lawns was one of his constant preoccupations and good relations were maintained with the Groundsman, on whom so much depended. Croquet balls were now an expensive item and players were asked to clean them properly before replacing in store. There were now 9 playable sets.

R. Eastaugh reported a satisfactory financial condition, in which the following amounts had been paid to the Cricket Club:

Croquet Club General	£68.02	
Royal Wedding (Tennis and Croquet) Evening	64.31	
Croquet Gala	44.96	177.29
The Balance in hand was	£15.30.	

The Chairman announced that changes in personnel would take place in the Handicap Committee. In the meantime, the existing Committee had reduced no less than 21 handicaps and found encouraging improvements in the general standard of play. The new handicap list would be posted in the Mallet Room.

The Chairman said that, over the years, various changes had been made in procedure in election and numbers of the Croq. Sect. Committee. A secret ballot for 7 Members had been introduced last year. Since then, the subject had been brought under review by the Committee, and their recommendations would be read out to the Meeting by K. Holroyde.

(Note: The procedure as agreed by the A.G.M. has been posted on the Notice Board} These proposals were now put before the A.G.M. for acceptance. The motion was seconded by J. Holt.

Proposals regarding electoral procedure had been received from A. Verity. As, unfortunately, he was unable, through illness, to present them personally, they were read out by Hon. Secy. "That the Committee be limited to five Members, two resigning each year for at least 1 year. Nominations for Committee be limited to those with at least 3 years Membership or 3 years' experience off Assoc. Croq. with another Assoc. recognised Club prior to joining Sidmouth."

No seconder could be found for this Proposal, and discussion turned to the Committee's recommendation. Prof. Whitmore said that it happened that he had been consulted unofficially when the Committee's recommendations were being drafted. There were admitted difficulties, but he hoped that there would be a convention that, although the proposals provided for resignation of the Committee en bloc annually, no Member would, ordinarily, serve for more than 3 years consecutively.

The Committee's Proposals were put to the Meeting and carried by show of hands.

Members were asked to fill forms to indicate preference for the following alternatives:

- (a) Weekly club session for Assoc. Croq.
- (b) Golf Croq., alternate weeks, morning or afternoon, (c) Golf Croq. F type, monthly.
- (d) Shot Game, monthly
- (e) High Handicap (total bisques) event.
- (f) Annual Luncheon, Hotel or Buffet.
- (g) Other suggestions.

The replies to this questionnaire would be analysed in due course for the guidance of the Committee.

Secret Ballot papers were distributed, tellers appointed, and asked to report after the tea interval of 20 minutes.

The result of the Ballot was as follows:

I. Dwerryhouse K. Holroyde R. Case. R. Peirce
R. Eastaugh J. Whitehead G. Cunningham

Mr. A. Verity's second proposal which he wished to have placed before the Meeting was read out in his absence. It related to Golf Croquet. The text was, "Formation of Golf Croq. subsection which would be allocated No. 2 lawn to which a reasonable number of mallets and balls would be transferred to No. 2 hut. The subsection would have their own committee to organise games, they would have their own booking sheets for one hour periods. Lawns 1 and 3 would have their own balls in the present store and would be for Assoc. Croq. only."

There was no seconder for this motion and it was decided that whatever action was taken could be based on the analysis of the questionnaire on "preferences."

G. Penman, Vice-president of the Cricket Club, who was a guest of the Committee, presented the Awards:

- J. Toye - Assoc. Croq. Singles Cup.
- I. Dwerryhouse and M. Hardman - Doubles Cup
- J and M. Holt - Golf Croc. Doubles
- V. Collier – High Handicap Event, Cup
- V. Collier - Most Improved Player's Cup.
- E. Corbett - Outstanding Service to the Club Cup.

Following the presentation, Mr Penman referred to the excellent relationship that existed between the Main Cricket Club and the Croquet Section.

G. Cunningham reported upon the current position regarding Golf Croq, and affirmed her belief that proficiency in Golf Croquet would lead on to proficiency in Assoc. Croq. She thanked all those who had given her such willing support and hoped that an additional prize (which she presented) of premium Bonds to the runners up - L. Sage and G. Graham would encourage them and others to even greater efforts.

Votes of thanks to the Chairman and to the Committee and those who had so readily helped with catering and other tasks for the common good were passed with acclamation at the end of the Meeting. The Proposers were F. Tovey and K. Togni.

J Dwerryhouse

Chairman

After the Meeting, the Committee decided that their first Meeting should be held on Mon. Dec. 14th @ 10.00 a.m. in the Main Pavilion.

A Whist Drive (organised by A and J. Reid) would be held on Tues. Dec. 8th @ 1.45 p.m. in the Main Pavilion.

J. Toye exhibited a sample Croq. Club which he could supply to Members at a cost of £20. A trial club could be tested by Members when the next season opened. In addition, he kindly offered to make 3 ball carriers and present them to the Club free of charge.

Draft REPORT for Main Committee A.G.M. from Croq. Sect.

The early part of the 1981 Season was bedevilled by exceptionally cold and wet weather, which dampened enthusiasm and set back our training programme.

Nevertheless, many of our Members have been able materially to lower their handicaps and the general standard of play has improved considerably.

In the Club Tournaments, the Singles Cup was won by John Toye in his second year of croquet, thereby ending Reg Peirce's reign during the past 4 years of Club Champion.

Iris Dwerryhouse and Mary Hardman won the Doubles Cups, and the "High Bisquers" Cup was won by Valerie Collier.

In national tournaments at Budleigh Salterton, Phillip Dwerryhouse won the L. G. Walters Cup and Iris the Reckitt Cup; and together they won the Doubles trophies. Reg Peirce was the losing finalist in the Gilbey Goblet that he won last year.

There were 2 enjoyable matches against the Budleigh Croquet Club. Sidmouth won handsomely at home (5 games to 1) but lost the return match at the very last hoop by 4 games to 5.