

STOOLBALL
ILLUSTRATED
AND
HOW TO PLAY IT

BY
W. W. GRANTHAM.

W. SPEAIGHT & SONS, LTD.,
98 & 99, FETTER LANE, LONDON, E.C. 4.

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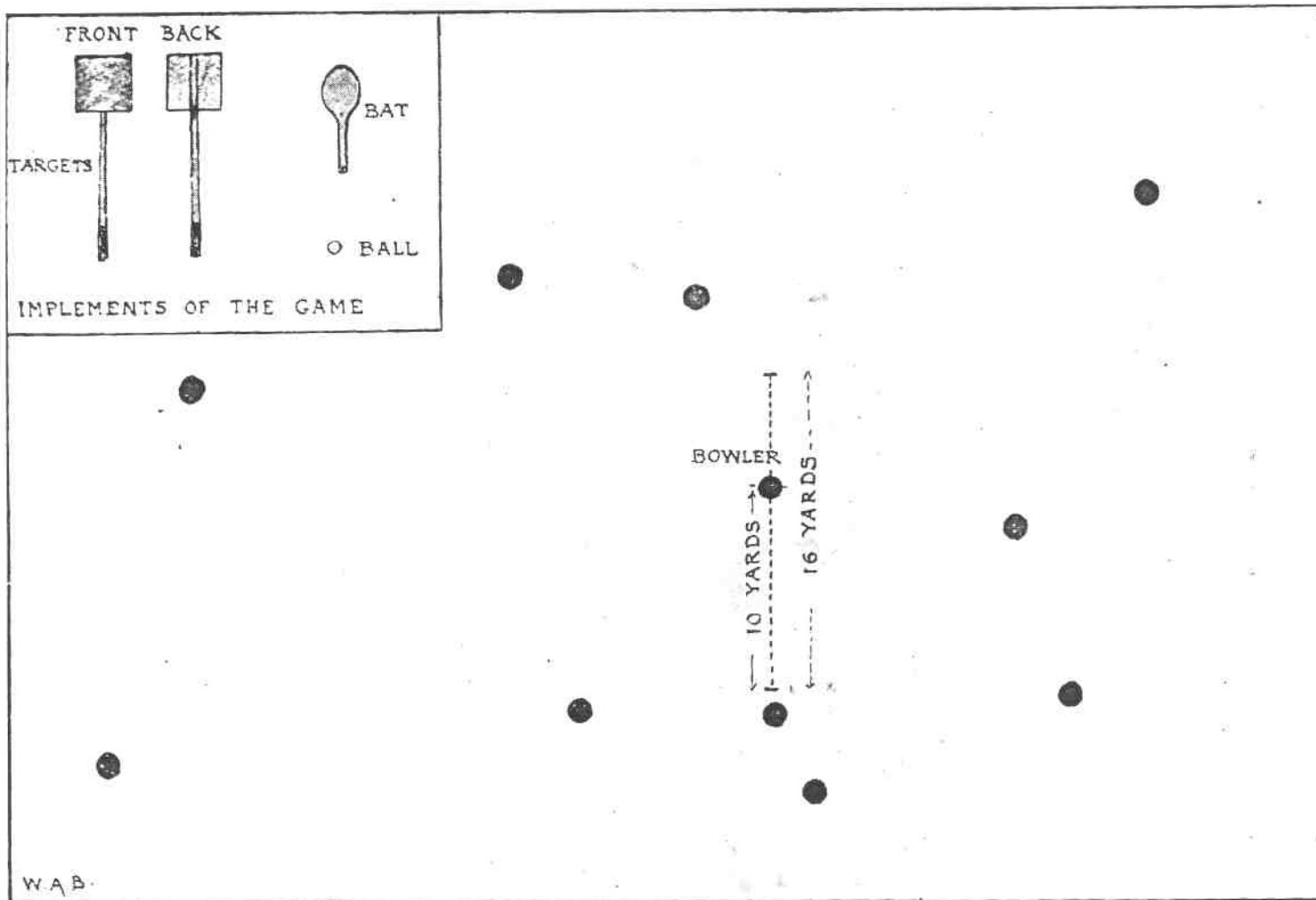
BY
W. W. GRANTHAM

"Stoolball is an AI game for all classes and for both sexes."
Vide PRESS.

ALL PROFITS ON THE SALE OF THIS PAMPHLET WILL BE
GIVEN TO THE COMRADES OF THE GREAT WAR ASSOCIATION.

LONDON:
W. SPEAIGHT & SONS, LTD., 98 & 99, FETTER LANE, E.C. 4.

DEDICATED
(by gracious permission)
TO
H.R.H. PRINCESS LOUISE
(DUCHESS OF ARGYLL).



THE STOOLBALL FIELD AND IMPLEMENTS.

A sketch by Mr. W. A. Bettesworth, reproduced by kind permission of "The Field."

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FOREWORDS

GUARDS' CLUB, LONDON.

March 9, 1919.

MY DEAR GRANTHAM,

You have asked me to write a few words on Stoolball, which I have played on various occasions.

The game appeals to me very much, partly because of its undoubted antiquity, but also because it can be played by those who, from infirmity or age, are incapacitated from more active exercise.

It has been a great boon to our sick and wounded soldiers during the past two years; and it does one good to see the intense pleasure derived by them from playing it.

I wish every success to the revival of this interesting and historical game.

Yours sincerely,

HENRY MACKINNON

(General).

PAVILION GENERAL HOSPITAL,
BRIGHTON.

March 10, 1919.

MY DEAR MAJOR,

Since you first mentioned the name of Stoolball to me in the month of July, 1917, and suggested that our one-armed boys would like to play the game on the Pavilion lawns, I have been fascinated by it, and have always been keen for every match you have arranged.

The results of the Great War have prevented many of our boys playing cricket and football; but, as you know, our Royal Pavilion teams soon showed their proficiency at the ancient game, and on many occasions beat your mixed teams of men and girls!

The match at the Sussex County Cricket Club ground, when H.R.H. the Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll) watched an exciting game and subsequently presented prizes to the winning team, will live long in my memory.

It is marvellous how kindly the Pavilion boys took to Stoolball from the beginning; may it continue to flourish.

Yours sincerely,

GEO. H. BROOK-COATS
(Colonel, C.B.)
President, Recreations, P.G.H., Brighton.

STOOLBALL AND HOW TO PLAY IT. 9

LORD'S CRICKET GROUND,
LONDON, N.W.

March 11, 1919.

DEAR GRANTHAM,

Having seen your Stoolball matches played here in 1917 and 1918, I have much pleasure in adding another "foreword" to your little book.

It seems an excellent game for those who have neither the time nor the health for cricket and football.

Your efforts for the revival of the ancient game have my best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

F. E. LACEY

(Secretary M.C.C.).

54, EATON TERRACE, S.W.

March 12, 1919.

DEAR MAJOR GRANTHAM,

As one who was very interested in the promotion and formation of Stoolball clubs in Sussex villages several years ago, I was glad to hear that you had revived the old game for the benefit of wounded officers and men home from the Front, and how successful your games have been.

To my mind Stoolball has two advantages: that it is a good game where the players are not physically robust enough for cricket or football, and that the ground requires no great preparation; any open space will do.

I hope your little book on the game will meet with much success.

Yours sincerely,

MABEL THOMAS.

PREFACE

AS far as I have been able to trace, no book has been written on Stoolball during the last three hundred years.

The reason of my reviving the game in 1917 was on account of my meeting so many officers and men who had "done their bit" (had lost a leg, or arm, or otherwise been disabled), and for whom cricket or football was too strenuous; it therefore occurred to me that Stoolball might be the game to fill a void for their benefit.

From the number of games that have been played during the last two years in different parts of England by all classes of the community, and of both sexes, either with or against the men in "khaki" or "blue," and from the numerous requests I have received for copies of the rules, there appears to be ample scope for a revival of the game, and it is hoped that its former popularity will be re-established.

Since June, 1917, the generosity of friends has enabled me to send several Stoolball sets to Convalescent Hospitals in France, Canada, and England—from where I have received many gratifying letters of thanks. Copies of the Rules have also been sent to Africa, Australia, Egypt, and Japan.

During the last two years I have had the pleasure of playing the game in London, at Lord's, in Hyde Park, and Regent's Park; in Sussex, at Lewes, Brighton, Hove, Hastings, Eastbourne, Littlehampton, Barcombe and Chailey; and I think the keenest and most proficient players I met were the W.R.A.F.'s in Regent's Park, the one-armed soldiers of the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, and

last, but not least, the wounded men at the Princess Louise Special Military Surgical Hospital, Chailey, who, I fancy, played through last season with an unbeaten record.

The necessaries for the game are simple and inexpensive ; the two wickets, two bats, and a ball costing from about 20s. to 35s., according to quality. The wickets can be made by any carpenter ; the bats, if with cane handles, require an expert to make.

Sets can be obtained from Messrs. Ayres, Gamage, Harrods, and Selfridge (of London) ; Clapshaw and Cleave (of Brighton and Birmingham) ; Lloyd (of Lewes) ; Wisden (of Brighton) ; and other firms.

I was asked to write a pamphlet on the game after the first match at Lord's ; but owing to my military duties I had no time till after the Armistice was signed. I now present this booklet, with all its imperfections, to an indulgent public.

W. W. G.

6, CROWN OFFICE ROW,
TEMPLE, E.C. 4.
April, 1919.

The Antiquity of the Game

STOOLBALL, according to one of Dr. Johnson's Dictionaries, was "a kind of game played with balls." It would have been equally true to have given the same explanation of cricket, as when one ball is irretrievably lost or damaged a second ball is called for.

As far as I can ascertain from the learned Doctor's biographer (Boswell) the former was no sportsman, and apparently cannot have enjoyed the pleasure of watching a game of stoolball either on his visits to Sussex, Surrey, Scotland or elsewhere.

From the researches I have recently been able to make, Stoolball appears to have been one of the National games of England before cricket was heard of.

I am not so bold as to affirm (as does Miss Champion in her excellent article on Stoolball in "The Country Home," January, 1909) that Stoolball is the game referred to in Doomsday Book as "Bittle Battle," and that the bat was called a "Bittle Bat," but as far back as the middle of the fifteenth century one learns from John Myrc's Instructions for Parish Priests that "Stoilball" was forbidden to be played in churchyards.

It seems to have been a favourite game in England in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and to have been played on Sundays as well as on other days, as is shown by the following references: At the Midsummer Quarter Sessions held at Maldon (Surrey) in 1564 complaints were made that the Constables suffered "Stoleball" to be played on Sundays; in 1583, at the Easter Sessions of the same town, Edward Anderkyn and four others were indicted for

playing at Stoolball on Sunday, April 14th. In 1592 the following presentment was made to the Archdeacon of Canterbury from the Parish of St. Paul in that City: "We present one Bottolph Wappoll, a continual gamester and one of very lewd behaviour, who being on Mayday last at Stoolball in time of Divine Service, one of our sidesmen came and admonished him to leave off playing and go to Church, for the which he fell on him and beat him that the blood ran about his ears."

In the Wandsworth Parish Churchwardens' accounts for 1608-9 we read that some boys were fined 111js.* for playing Stoolball. In 1623, again at the Easter Sessions at Maldon, three youths were indicted for playing at Stoolball in time of afternoon service on Sunday, April 27. So much for the Sabbath records of the game among men and boys.

It appears that about the same period the game was played (as now) by Matrons and Maids, for in the Countess of Pembroke's "Life of Sir Philip Sidney" (Arcadia Sonnets), we have the dialogue between two shepherds, Will and Dick:

WILL: A time there is for all, my Mother often says,
When she with skirts tuck'd very high
With girls at Stoolball plays.

Nor was the game played only by men and boys of "lewd" behaviour or of the labouring class, as we find that in the days of Good Queen Bess, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, with a long "trayne" went to stay at Michaelwood Lodge, and after resting there awhile repaired to Wotton Hill, where he and others of his "trayne" played Stoolball.

Mention is also made of the game in Drant's translation (1567) of Horace's "Ars Poetica," and in the Shirburn Ballads about 1600. In Stow's Survey of London (1598)

* 4s.

his list of games then played includes Stoolball; and in Besant's "London in the Time of the Stuarts" we find the following verse :

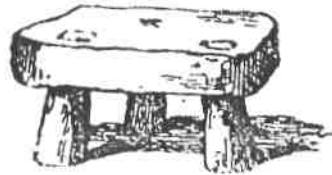
Man, I dare challenge thee to throw the sledge,
 To jump or to escape over a ditch or hedge,
 To make play at Stooleball or to runne
 To pitch the barre or to shoote off a gunne.

* * * * *

At shoote cocke, Gregory, Stooleball, and what not,
 Picke poynt, toppe and scourge to make him hotte.

Many other writers of prose and verse of the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries refer to the game. Economy in space and the fear of wearying my readers with too many details prevents my giving them in full in this booklet. (See Appendix.)

In addition to the noble Lord referred to above, the game has been played by many well-known people, including County Cricketers, Judges, Bishops and Generals.



A CRICKET.



STOOL-BALL.

STOOLBALL.

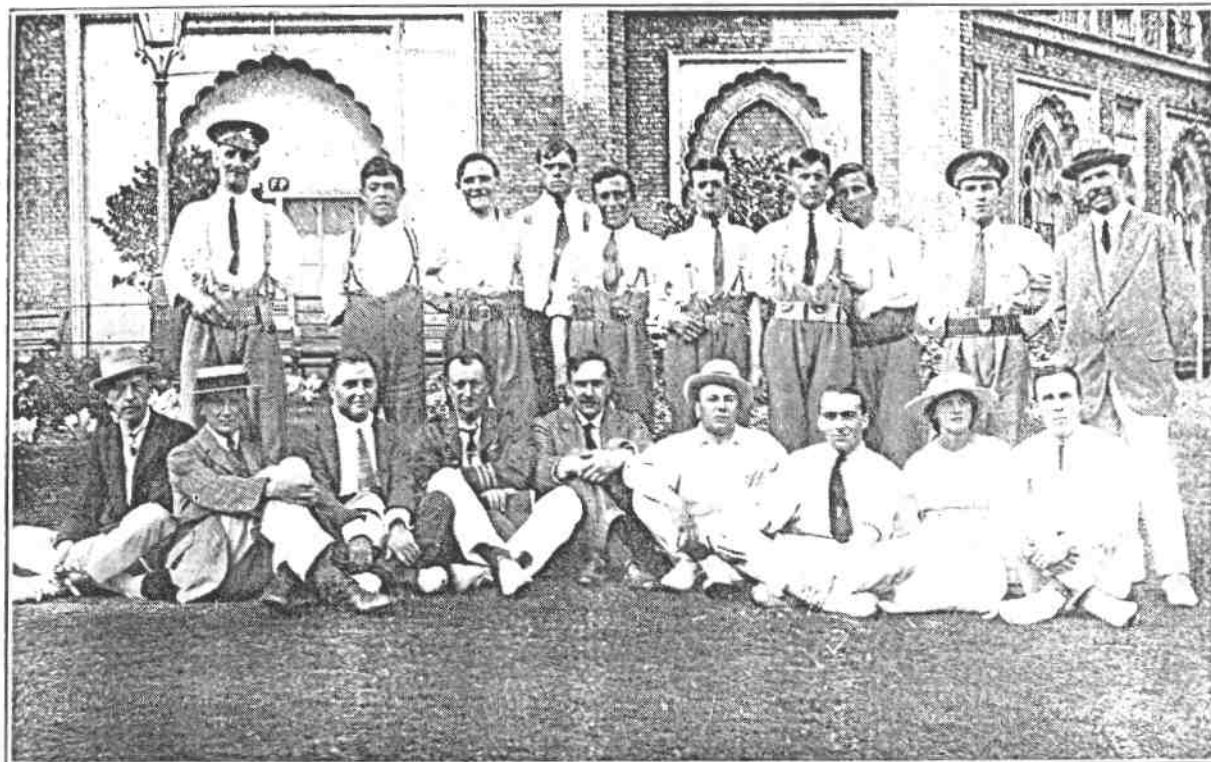
"The Ball once struck with Art and Care,
And drove impetuous through the air;
Swift round his course the Gamester flies,
Or his stool's taken by surprise."

RULE OF LIFE.

"Bestow your Alms whene'er you see
An object of necessity."

FROM "A LITTLE PRETTY POCKET BOOK," 1767,
IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

STOOLBALL MATCH.



PHOTOGRAPH OF A STOOLBALL MATCH AT THE ROYAL PAVILION HOSPITAL, BRIGHTON, BETWEEN ONE-ARMED MEN AND " YE ANCIENTE LAWYERS " OF SUSSEX, JULY 29TH, 1917.

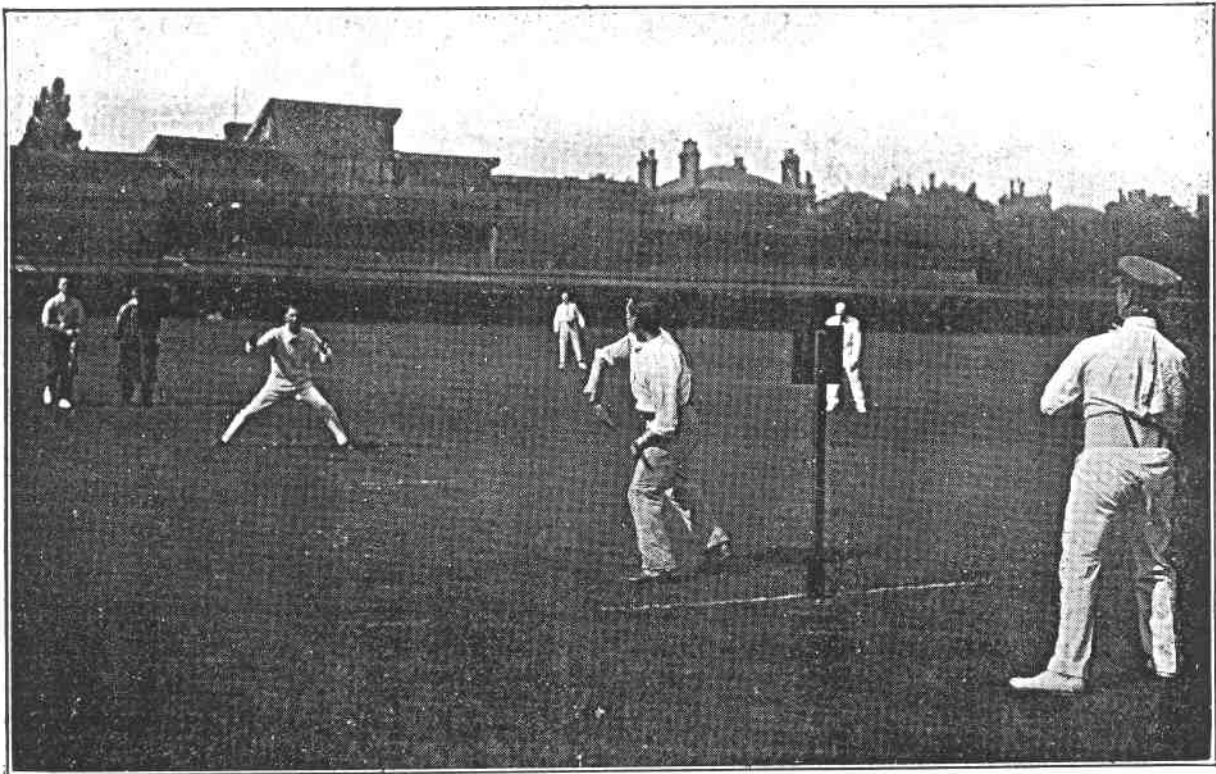
*In bottom row from left to right :—*Messrs. Jeffreys, Montagu Harris, Henson Infield, Major W. W. Grantham (Capt.), Messrs. Sargeant (Mayor of Hove), Trangmar, Grant McLean, Miss Harris and Mr. Godfree, Umpire: Sir Wm. Gentle (Chief Constable of Brighton).

YE ANCIENTE LAWYERS v. PAVILION BLUES

SCORES.

Pavilion " Blues."—H. Garrett, not out, 27 and b 15; Corporal Jackson, b 3 and b 0; Atkins, run out 2 and not out 28; Hilton, c 3 and b 3; Smale, c 6 and c 42; Moore, c 0 and b 9; Matthews, c 0 and c 10; Evans, b 0 and did not bat; Upton, c 0 and did not bat; extras, 1 and 2; totals, 42 and 100 for six wickets.

Ye Anciente Lawyers.—Major Grantham, b 11 and run out 1; the Mayor of Hove (Councillor Sargeant, J.P.), c 0 and run out 3; H. E. Trangmar, b 5 and c 16; G. S. Godfree, c 34 and not out 14; Grant McLean, b 2 and run out 4; J. Henson Infield, c 12 and b 4; C. N. Jeffreys, c 0 and b 0; G. Montagu Harris, c 2 and b 1; Miss Harris, not out 4 and c 0; extras, 9 and 2; totals, 79 and 45.



PHOTOGRAPH OF STOOLBALL, MATCH AT LORD'S, AUGUST 31ST, 1917,
BETWEEN THE 2ND LONDON GENERAL HOSPITAL, (DAMAGED BY WOUNDS)
AND " YE ANCIENTE LAWYERS " (DAMAGED BY AGE).

NOTE.—*The batsman is playing a backhanded stroke : on the left of the picture is the second batsman at the other wicket, behind which stands the umpire. The bowler has just delivered a ball.*



WHAT A GAME OF STOOLBALL LOOKS LIKE.

A sketch of the match at Lord's (1918) by Mr. W. A. Bellesworth, reproduced by kind permission of "The Field."

STOOLBALL MATCH

AT LORD'S

(PROBABLY THE FIRST FOR 200 YEARS IN LONDON)

Friday, August 31st, 1917,

AT 2.45 P.M.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF:—

H.R.H. PRINCESS LOUISE (DUCHESS OF ARGYLL).

THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON.

THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX,
&c., &c., &c.

NAMES OF THE PLAYERS

(Most of whom have not seen or heard of the Game before this month, nor played it till to-day).

2nd London General Hospital.

(Damaged by Wounds)		First Innings.	Second Innings.
1	Lt. E. E. Canney (D. L. I.)	c Lewis b Rees	17
2	Cpl. Baverstock (Hussars)	b Marsham	20
3	Cpl. Jones (R. Fus.)	c Lewis, b Rees	6
4	Lt. G. S. Muir.. (Can. Regt.)	b Marsham	2
5	Lt. N. Blackett(Lancs. Fus.)	c Haddock, b Rees ..	0
6	Bmdr. Morris (R.G.A.)	b Rees	6
7	2nd Lt. J. Thompson (Nfk.)	b Marsham	0
8	Tpr. Wolf (H'hld Bn.)	c and b Rees	0
9	Lce.-Cpl. Hunt (3rd Essex)	b Marsham	2
10	Tpr. Chapman.. (3rd Hsrs.)	not out	2
11	Tpr. Ellcombe (H'hld. Bn.)	c and b Rees	0
		Extras	Extras
		Total	55 Total

"Ye Anciente Lawyers."

(Damaged by Age)		First Innings.	Second Innings.
1	Major W. W. Grantham..	not out	30
2	L. G. Horton-Smith	b b w, b Jones ..	5
3	Capt. A. B. Watson	b Canney	5
4	R. J. Willis	b Jones	2
5	G. C. Kingsbury	b Canney	0
6	F. Lawson Lewis	c and b Canney	0
7	Capt. C. H. B. Marsham ..	b Jones	2
8	G. Caradoc Rees, M.P. ..	b Canney	22
9	C. Haddock	c and b Muir	0
10	C. H. Beman	b Muir	9
11	S. T. Fitzherbert	b Muir	0
		Extras	Extras
		Total	77 Total

Umpires—Rev. Oswald G. O. Larr, C.F. and Mr. Thomas Hogg.

Scorers—Messrs. R. Gaby and W. Robertson.

STOOLBALL MATCH

AT LORD'S

(PROBABLY THE SECOND FOR 200 YEARS IN LONDON)

Saturday, May 18th, 1918,

AT 2.45 P.M.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF:—

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR.

THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON,

&c., &c., &c.

NAMES OF THE PLAYERS

(Most of whom have not seen or heard of the Game before this month, nor played it till to-day).

GEN. SIR H. MACKINNON'S TEAM.		First Innings.	Second Innings.
1	C. Haddock	c Morgan, b Jones..	0
2	S. T. Fitzherbert	c Morgan b L. Morshead	6
3	Gen. Sir H. Mackinnon ..	b Jones	13
4	Mrs. Robert Bruce..	c and b Rice	9
5	Miss Myrtle Grantham ..	b L. Morshead	0
6	F. Furner	c and b Morgan ..	1
7	W. G. Carne	run out	2
8	W. Martineau	c Low, b McMillan..	3
9	C. H. Worthy	b H. Morshead	16
10	Duncan McGregor..S. Rfls.	b Rice	11
11	—Gregson	not out	15
		Extras	1 Extras....
		Total	77 Total

MAJOR GRANTHAM'S TEAM.		First Innings.	Second Innings.
1	Major W. W. Grantham ..	retired	21
2	Col. L. J. Morshead, A.I.F.	c Haddock, b M'kinnon	11
3	Cpt. H. H. Morshead A.F.A.	retired	22
4	Cpt. T. F. Rice....A.I.F.	retired	12
5	Lt. A. W. McMillan A.F.A.	run out	25
6	Lt. J. Plummer....A.I.F.	b Worthy	0
7	Sgt. J. R. Jones 1st Mx. Regt.	c and b Gregson ..	4
8	Pte. C. Lowe 22nd Manc. R.	c and b Gregson ..	30
9	Pte. G. North'S. Staff. Regt.	not out	10
10	Miss Richards	not out	4
11	Lt. W. B. S. Morgan A.I.F.	did not bat
		Extras	4 Extras....
		Total	143 Total

Umpires—Lieut. Ivor Grantham and Mr. P. Need.

Scorers—Messrs. W. Robertson and R. Gaby.

RULES

THE rules which are subjoined are principally those as revised at a meeting of famous Sussex Stoolball players held in Lewes on May 4th, 1909, with a few additions and alterations suggested by the writer, after consultation with other Stoolball authorities, and adopted by the umpires and players at the matches played on the Sussex County Cricket Ground on August 18th, and at Lord's on August 31st, 1917.

1.—The ball to be that usually known as best tennis No. 3. Any ball softer and smaller than a cricket ball will do.

2.—The bat (willow and cane handle is the best) to be not more than $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter.

3.—The wickets to be boards 1ft. square mounted on a stake; the top of the wicket to be 4ft. 8in. from the ground. The stake of the wicket must be at least 1in. below the top of the face board. The wickets to be 16yds. apart.

4.—The bowling crease to be 10 yds. from each wicket and not to exceed 1 yd. in length.

5.—The bowler shall bowl the ball underhand.

6.—The bowler shall deliver the ball with one foot at least on the ground behind the bowling crease, otherwise the umpire shall call "no ball." A ball may not be thrown or jerked, otherwise the umpire shall call "no ball."

7.—There are no wide balls.

8.—The ball shall be bowled in overs of 10 balls, to each wicket alternately, unless otherwise agreed to. When 10 balls have been bowled, and the ball is finally settled in the

bowler's or wicket-keeper's hands, the umpire shall call "Over." A "no ball" shall not be reckoned as one of the "over."

9.—The striker is out if the ball when bowled hits any part of the wicket except the stump. Or if the ball having been hit is caught by one of the opposite party. Or if while running or preparing or pretending to run, the ball itself be thrown by one of the opposite party so as to hit the face of the wicket. Or if any of the opposite party with ball in hand touch the face of the wicket before the bat or hand of either of the strikers touch the same, or before part of the bat in hand has passed the wicket. Or if with any part of his person he stops the ball, which in the opinion of the bowler's umpire would have hit his wicket.

10.—The batsman is counted in his ground if, in the event of dropping his bat, he touch the wicket with his hand.

11.—The batsman must touch his wicket on commencing his innings.

12.—A non-striker shall be held to be out of his ground unless with his bat in hand he can touch his wicket.

13.—No stumping is allowed.

14.—If the ball, not having been called "no ball," pass the striker without touching his bat or person, and any runs be obtained, the umpire shall call "bye."

15.—If in running the strikers have crossed each other, he who runs for the wicket which is struck by the ball is out.

16.—A striker being run out, the run which was attempted shall not be scored.

17.—A ball being caught so that the striker is out, no run shall be scored.

18.—If "lost ball" be called, the striker shall be allowed 4 runs, but if more than 4 have been run before "lost ball"

shall have been called, then the striker shall have all that have been run.

19.—The umpires, one at each wicket, are the sole judges of fair or unfair play; and all disputes shall be settled by them each at his own wicket; but in case of any doubt on the part of the umpire, the other umpire may be by him requested to give an opinion, which opinion shall be decisive.

20.—The umpires shall stand at square leg and adjoining the wicket behind the bowler respectively.

21.—The umpires are not to give a decision without an appeal.

22.—The umpires are not to give directions to either party while acting as umpires, but shall be strictly impartial.

23.—They shall allow not more than 2 minutes for each striker to come in, and not more than 10 minutes between each innings—the tea interval excepted.

On all points for which there are no special rules, the laws of cricket, as far as possible, shall hold good for Stoolball also.

HINTS ON THE GAME

TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE RULES.

Anyone who has played Cricket will find most of the Rules for Stoolball very similar.

THE BATSMAN.

He is out when bowled, caught, run out, or b.b.w. (body before wicket).

When being bowled to he should stand so that he can touch the wicket with his bat, and so that no part of his body is in front of the wicket.

There is neither stumping, nor hit-wicket, nor is there any rule to prevent the batsman standing with his bat against the wicket.

There is no popping-crease.

The bat may be held in either hand.

When running, it is best to do so with bat in hand well extended towards the opposite wicket, and if part of the bat is level with (or past) the wicket before the face or edge of the wicket is hit by the ball thrown at it, or before the face or edge of the wicket is hit by the ball in the hand of one of the Field, the batsman is not out.

He should keep to the left when running—to avoid colliding with his partner or with the bowler.

THE BOWLER.

He may bowl as fast as he likes underhand, but must not jerk the delivery.

After bowling, if the batsmen start to run, he should hasten to the wicket behind him, in case the ball is thrown to his end.

THE FIELD.

As the bowling is generally slow, no long-stop is required if there is a good wicket-keeper.

If the bowling is straight no long-leg is necessary.

A long-slip is an advantage if a batsman is hitting the ball with a back-handed stroke.

THE UMPIRE.

At the bowler's end he should stand just behind the wicket (the other Umpire is at square leg).

If in his opinion a ball would have hit the batsman's wicket if it had not hit the head, body, or arm of the batsman, the latter is out.

There are no "wide" balls; but if a bowler when delivering a ball has both feet over the bowler's crease (*i.e.*, less than ten yards from the batsman's wicket) he must call "no-ball."

THE WICKET.

The top edge of the wicket board (fastened to a post) should be 4 ft. 8 in. in height.

The face or edge of the board only is the wicket; if the back of the board is hit by the ball when the batsmen are running, the batsman is not out.

THE GROUND.

If the ground on which the game is to be played is fairly soft, and there is no objection to making a hole in the ground, the straight post, pointed at the end, is simplest.

If there is any objection to making a hole for the post, then it is best to have the "Hampden" wicket, *i.e.*, a post with tripod and three long iron pins.

If the game is played on asphalt or other hard ground, a post with four feet at right angles to the post is desirable.

ADVANTAGES

Among other advantages of the game over Cricket and Football are the following :

- S**implicity to learn and play.
Smoothness of ground not necessary.
Size of ground can be smaller.
- T**wo wickets, two bats, and one ball required.
- O**ne-armed men can become very proficient.*
- O**ld and young can play it as easily as middle-aged people.†
- L**ength of game can be decided on before beginning.‡
- B**oth sexes have proved themselves adepts at the game.
- A**ll the year round it can be played.§
- L**ess strenuous.
- L**s. d.; is less expensive.

It appears that the great game of Cricket was evolved by several and easy stages out of the game of Stoolball; in fact, the game of Stoolball has been played in many

* One-legged men can bat (with a man to run) and keep wicket easily. In a match at Brighton with all one-armed men on one side, there was an Umpire without legs seated in a wheeled chair.

† In the Lord's match (1918) the ages of the players varied from seventeen to seventy. In a match played by the writer in Sussex several years ago three generations of his family played.

‡ In a recent Stoolball tournament for teams of wounded soldiers it was arranged that each side should play for twenty minutes, and the final match was limited to half an hour.

§ The writer played a match in every month from June, 1917, to May, 1918, including a match on Boxing Day.

ways in other days, and whether the origin of the game was due to

- (a) the Ancient Briton hurling a stone or piece of wood at his neighbour sitting on a rough Stöl, Stoll, Stoile, Stoel, Stuhl, Stoole, or Stool;* or
- (b) the milkmaids (or land girls of long ago) requiring sport and exercise,

whether it was first played by two people only—one bowling at the stool and the other defending it with his hand,

or when the stool was first placed on its side and used as a wicket,

or when the stool was turned upside down and the ball had to go through the upturned legs (or stumps) of the wicket,

or when a club, stick, or bat was first used,

or when, to save stooping so much to defend the low wicket, it was decided to put the round or square target (or top of the stool) on a post (as now), it is not possible nor necessary here to say with any degree of certainty.

* The game of Stopball, Stoball, Stobball, and Stowball is thought by some writers to have been the same game as Stoolball.

APPENDIX

Writers and References (ancient and modern) 100 Not Out.

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- [1686] Aubrey's "Nat. Hist. of Wilts." p. 47.
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NOTES TO REFERENCES.—[Date] is the reference to the game and not the date of publication. In some cases the books in above list have no date of publication. Some of the references have been supplied by friends and the opportunity of verifying all has not been possible. The Author will be greatly indebted to readers kind enough to draw his attention to any error.