

Read the text. Choose one of the variants A, B or C.



Croquet became very popular in England in the middle of the 19th century. The home of the All England Croquet Club was Wimbledon.

Many people played croquet in England at that time, but the Croquet Club was not rich. Later the new game of lawn-tennis became popular. People play lawn-tennis on a lawn, that is, on grass. In 1875 the croquet players and lawn-tennis players changed the name of their club to the All England Lawn-Tennis and Croquet Club and this name you will find today in the telephone book.

Two years later, in 1877, the first world lawn tennis championship took place at Wimbledon. At first only men played lawn-tennis and there was a surprise when the Club let women take part in the

championship of 1884. The dresses of the women players were very long but they played well.

Wimbledon was still an amateur tournament – tennis whites were long, rackets were wooden, and top players were not teenage millionaires.

The game has changed dramatically since it was invented in France about six hundred years ago. Nowadays light graphite rackets make balls fly like bullets on a battlefield.

The Club is very rich today. There are only 400 members – 350 men and 50 women in it. Some people say that the easiest way to become a member of the Club is to win one of the Wimbledon championships and become a champion.

1. The present-day name of the Club is
  - A the All England Croquet Club.
  - B the All England Lawn-Tennis and Croquet Club.
  - C the All England Lawn-Tennis Club.
2. Women who took part in one of the first championships
  - A wore short tennis whites.
  - B used graphite rackets.
  - C were good at tennis.
3. Lawn-tennis is ... in origin.
  - A French
  - B English
  - C American
4. First tennis players were
  - A professionals.
  - B amateurs.
  - C millionaires.
5. To join the Club is not easy because
  - A the entrance fee is high.
  - B tennis equipment is expensive.
  - C its membership is limited.

