

sport, not violent, and yeelds good occasion and opportunity of discourse, as they walke from the one marke to the other. I marvell, among many more Apish and foolish toyes, which wee have brought out of France, that wee have not brought this sport also into England.<sup>42</sup> The game was, however, well established in Scotland at this time, where it had perhaps been introduced from France by Mary, Queen of Scots. One of the points made in the 'book of articles' accusing her of complicity in her husband's murder was that, shortly afterwards (1567), she was at Seton with Bothwell, playing 'one day richt oppinlie at the fieldis with the pal mall and goif'.<sup>43</sup>

Mary's son, James, probably brought the game to England. In the book which he wrote to instruct his son Henry in princely behaviour, he included pall mall amongst the sports which he thought suitable for a young prince to play: 'the exercises that I would have you to use (although but moderatlie not making a craft of them) are running, leaping, wrestling, fencing, dauncing, and playing at the caitcher or tennise, archery, palle maillé, and such like other faire and pleasant field games'.<sup>44</sup>

Pall mall continued to be a popular royal game during the reigns of Charles I and Charles II. Peter Mundy mentions among 'Matters off Note' that he saw Charles I 'playing att Palle Malle by St. James' in 1639,<sup>45</sup> and Charles II's play was described in verse by Edmund Waller:

'Here a well-polisht Mall gives us the joy  
To see our Prince his matchless force  
employ; . . .  
No sooner has he toucht the flying ball,  
But 'tis already more than half the mall,  
And such a fury from his arm has got  
As from a smoaking Culverin 'twere shot.'<sup>46</sup>

The mall mentioned by Mundy was on the south side of St. James's Field, and is shown on Faithorne and Newcourt's map (published 1658 but surveyed 1643-7, Plate 1). When this mall was first laid down is not known. About 1629 John Bonnealle, a Frenchman, took a piece of land in St. James's Field, 'under pretence of making a Pall Mall'.<sup>47</sup> 'Under pretence' suggests that Bonnealle failed to make one, but another source, dated 1630, refers to 'St. James's field where the

pallmall is'.<sup>48</sup> It may be that the pall mall mentioned in 1630 was an old one and that Bonnealle had been commissioned to make a new one. In 1635 Archibald Lumsden, who in the three preceding years had spent £425 14s. 'in bowls, malls and scopes' and in repairs to the mall,<sup>49</sup> was granted the sole right to furnish 'all the Malls, bowls, scoops and other necessities for the game of Pall Mall within his grounds in St. James Fields'.<sup>50</sup> (Lumsden never received payment of Charles I's debt; he was granted a patent for 'transporting 500 dozen pair of leather boots' in lieu thereof, but even this was recalled by Parliament.<sup>49</sup>) In time, by association with the game, St. James's Field became known as Pall Mall Field or Close, and it was under this name that it was surveyed in 1650. There were then 140 elm trees 'standing in Pell Mell walke in a very decent and Regular manner on both sides the Walke'.<sup>23</sup>

After the Restoration the mall in St. James's Field was abandoned, and a new highway on the line of the present Pall Mall street was laid over it (see page 322). A new mall, to which Waller referred in the lines quoted above, was made within St. James's Park, on the south side of the wall bordering the old highway from St. James's Palace to Charing Cross.<sup>51</sup>

" Survey of London  
from  
Athlone Press 1960

## THE GAME OF PALL MALL

Pall mall appears to have originated in Italy and to have been introduced into France during the sixteenth century;<sup>39</sup> its name, *palle-maille* in French,\* derived from the Italian *palla* = ball and *maglio* = mallet, in reference to the equipment used by the players. The balls and mallets used in the game were made of wood. The mallet, which resembled those now used for croquet, had a slightly curved head with flattened ends, each bound with an iron hoop, and a long slender handle. There are in the British Museum a ball and a pair of mallets, one marked with the name 'Latoure'. They were presented in 1854 by G. Vulliamy, and had been found in his father's house at No. 68 Pall Mall, which had been occupied by the Vulliamy family since the 1760's.<sup>40</sup>

A Frenchman, Joseph Lauthier, writing in 1722, mentions four variants of the game.<sup>41</sup> One of these, *à la Chicane*, was played in open country, and resembled golf; it was probably the version played in Scotland (see below). In England another variant seems to have been popular, and was played in a smooth grass alley, called a pall mall. Sir Robert Dallington, in his *View of France As it stode in . . . 1598*, stated that 'Among all the exercises of France, I preferre none before the *Palle-maille*, both because it is a Gentleman-like

\* There were several variant spellings in French and English. In English 'pell-mell' sometimes occurs by analogy with pell-mell (meaning 'in disorder'), but this last phrase has a different derivation. See the O.E.D. and *Notes and Queries*, indices to 6th and 7th series, for the etymology of pall mall and pell mell.



FIG. 57. — Mallet and ball for playing Pall Mall.

*Pall Mall, or paille maille*, was a game played with wooden mallets and a ball of boxwood (fig. 57), and was introduced into England towards the earlier years of the seventeenth century. It had been played in France at an earlier date but seems to have been introduced into that country from Italy, for in the carnival-songs of Florence of about 1500 mention is made of *palla a maglio*, and Leonardo da Vinci in his notebooks mentions the game played with the mallet as worthy of the painter's observation for the study of the human form in action. The name itself is in favour of such an origin, being probably derived from the two Italian words *palla*, a ball, and *maglio*, a mallet. Though King James I in his *Basilicon Doron*, written for his son Prince Henry, recommends 'Palle Maille' as a pleasant

field game, its popularity in this country probably dated from the middle of the seventeenth century. In all likelihood the present Pall Mall marks the site where the game was played at this time; but after the Restoration, when it enjoyed its greatest vogue, a new Mall was made on the north side of St. James's Park which is frequently mentioned by Pepys. The surface was of well-levelled earth, while barriers were erected along the sides to keep the ball within bounds. The game seems to have consisted in striking the ball through an iron arch, or a ring suspended from a short stake, at each end of the Mall, the winner being the player who got his ball through arch or ring either in the smallest number of strokes, or in a number previously agreed upon. But in various early illustrations the arch or the ring is not a constant feature, and it is difficult to be sure what the nature of the goal really was. It is not known with certainty at what time Pall Mall went out of fashion, but it was probably in the first half of the eighteenth century. The mallet and ball shown in fig. 57 were found in an old house in Pall Mall in 1851, and were presented to the Museum by Mr. Vulliamy.

Golf seems to have been played at least as early as the early years of the sixteenth century; men are represented putting, in an illumination from a Flemish Book of Hours of that date in the Department of Manuscripts.