

Contd from front page

Finally I would like to thank the players at the clubs used to hold these championships for the use of the venues and giving up their playing time. Without their agreement championships such as these cannot be held and I know how difficult it is to go without your 'croquet' fix.

The 'final' final is that this is Jacky's and my swan song as far as organising these major evens go. We feel that over the past years we have given our fair share to croquet and it is time to let some one else take the reins. Jacky and I would like to extend our thank you to all of those who have helped us over the years because without you we could not have succeeded.

Geof McDonald
Chairman, Organising Committee

Singles winner, John Levick, and runner-up, Alix Verge, with the Match referee Margaret Thompson of Nelson Bay CC.



Steve Harden was thrilled with his achievement of 4th place in the Singles, his first major GC event



Martyn Prins on his way to winning the Y Knockout

Pam Gentle won the Singles Plate, in a close match against fellow club member, Peter Smith



All photos on front cover and this page courtesy Geof McDonald



Players needed to take shelter during rain storms.



Bruce & Liz Fleming (Qld) were well protected and went on to win the Doubles Plate event.



Just how many people does it take to set a hoop?

Australian Golf Croquet Championships Raffle Results

The winners were as follows:-

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 st : | 1 dozen bottles wine | Margaret Stapleton (Marrickville) |
| 2 nd : | Hunter Valley Cheeses | Ros Johnstone (Sutherland) |
| 3 rd : | Picnic Set | Bev Smith (Maitland) |
| | Crosstitch | Ingrid Cohen (Sydney) |
| 4 th : | Picnic Set | |

Thank you to all those clubs who returned their tickets. We found it really interesting to see who returned them. Some clubs just ignored the whole thing and others returned their tickets unsold. Most of the clubs with large memberships did not assist at all – it was all the \$10 and \$20 amounts from the smaller clubs which allowed us to recompense the referees who provided their time and expertise. The referees, some of whom travelled long distances, were quite blown away by having some of their expenses met.

Geof and Jacky McDonald

CROQUET NSW Inc.

Newsletter

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JUNE 2010

Australian Golf Croquet Championships



John Levick and Ron Johnstone, winners of the Inaugural Australian GC Open Doubles Championship



John Levick standing beside the scoreboard after winning the Australian GC Open Singles Championship

They were a very successful championships, a few minor glitches but successful never the less. The championships not only had players from all the Australian states except Western Australia and Tasmania but took on an international flavour with entrants coming from New Zealand. We were extremely lucky with the weather, there were a couple of heavy downpours but in general the weather was kind to us. So what more could we want.

The committee set out at the beginning to give all the entrants as much croquet as possible so that it made the cost of entering the tournament worthwhile. I know that quite a large proportion of players were 'croqueted out' out by the time it was all over. This was probably due to the large proportion of players who entered the Plate Events - only one couple did not play in the Doubles and five in the singles, some of these were due to illness.

Unfortunately there was some disagreement about the handing out of the Doubles trophies and this was not done until the end of the tournament, in hindsight they should have been presented at the end of the doubles play. The committee had always planned to hold the Doubles over four days because this gave us the time needed to hold the Plate.

The welcoming afternoon tea that was held at Newcastle Croquet Club turned out to be a very pleasant gathering as

was the more formal official dinner held on the Tuesday night. The championships was finished off with a gathering of players and spectators for the presentation of the trophies.

The winners of the Inaugural Open Doubles Championship of Australia were Ron Johnstone and John Levick of New South Wales who defeated Geoff Young and Dallas Cooke of New Zealand, with Liz and Bruce Fleming winning the Plate.

The Open Singles titles was won by John Levick who defeated Alix Verge in a hard fought Finals match-up. It was gratifying to see such a large number of spectators who attended throughout the championships to watch what was world class croquet.

I would like to thank all those referees who so kindly donated their time and expertise in making this a successful tournament I would especially like to thank the ground staff at the various locations for the excellent work they did on preparing the venues for the competition. They were excellent.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the 'kitchen ladies' who do such a magnificent job. Without their cups of tea and 'goodies' no championship can be considered successful and we have the best of them.

Contd on back page



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From the President

This is not exactly hot off the press news but I must begin by congratulating our NSW Eire Cup team on their magnificent and hard-fought win in Victoria at the end of March. It all came down to a hoops differential on the final day and the tension at times was palpable. I was able to watch play on the last three days and found it fascinating, enlightening, and obviously very exciting, particularly on the last day.

Earlier the team had invited the four NSW people down for ACA meetings to dinner at their very comfortable quarters. This gesture was much appreciated by all of us and it was good to see the team working so well together despite the inevitable rivalries of state and national competition. All were full of praise for player/manager Pam Gentle. So great work all round. The official CNSW celebration will be on June 11th.

Congratulations, too, to the very successful performances by the NSW contingent at the recent Australian Golf Croquet Doubles and Singles Championships. Outstanding were John Levick who claimed both titles, the doubles with a heroic Ron Johnstone who had to battle back problems, Alix Verge, who really took it to John in the Singles Final, and Pam Gentle who won the Plate from Peter Smith. Full details are on the website.

I do not want to sound parochial or biased (even if I am), but NSW is really proving a strength to be reckoned with in Golf Croquet. All four places allocated to Australia in the WCF World Over 50 Championships have gone to N.S. Welshmen, together with four of the seven wildcards. We wish all who go to Cairo for this first-time event really happy hooping.

There are other quite varied croquet-related matters to report. First, we had some busy but unobtrusive filming going on at Jamberoo during their Anzac weekend tournament. There is a report of this venture on pp16-17 of this Newsletter. The video being made will be released later this year on a DVD and will be available for sale. Congratulations on the initiative!

I have also been in contact with James Creasey, an Englishman now living in Denver, who has started a croquet program for people dealing with dementia. As James says in his welcome note, 'Hosting a croquet program in collaboration with your local Alzheimer's Association allows you to serve your community, increase the visibility of your club and expand its membership. Croquet's ability to create connections with people dealing with dementia is quite remarkable.' Two CNSW members who are health professionals have already expressed an interest in James' endeavours, and I hope other members will find time to be involved. James' story is a good starting point and can be found on jiminywicket.com

I like Brian Storey's way of signing off: 'May your hoops be wide, except when playing me'.

Robyn Wallace



From the Editor

This Newsletter is running late, caused by some personal reasons and some to do with croquet. The month of May saw me away from home for more time than I was present.

One of my trips was to assist with refereeing at the Australian Open Golf Croquet Doubles and Singles. This was a great experience for me, to be part of such an important event in the croquet calendar. My thanks go to the members of National Park CC where I was working for the way in which they looked after the referees and players, and particularly Bev Smith (Maitland Club) who transported me to and from Maitland each day and who ensured that the referees working with her had adequate breaks during the sometimes long days of play. My billet in Maitland, Joan Boyle, was again a most gracious hostess/friend and I wish to acknowledge her for providing me with a home away from home.

Sadly, though, the real reason for the delay in producing this Newsletter is that not enough Clubs are submitting material for publication. Articles do not have to be long nor do they need to be pieces worthy of some literary prize. We just want to know about the life of your club and its enjoyment of the game of croquet. Once again I am begging Clubs who have not contributed to the Newsletter for some time, perhaps never before, to make an effort to provide an article for either the September or December issues this year. You never know, you might actually enjoy doing this! The Newsletter is yours - so please help to make it a good one.

I was pleased that one of the newer clubs, Mt Sugarloaf, responded to my pleas and sent news about their club. Although only a small club as yet, they are doing some very good things to spread the news about croquet.

Hopefully, the big wet has passed and all are able to get out on the lawns again.

Wendy Fothergill
wfotherg@bigpond.net.au

Members of the winning team for the 2010 inter-state Eire Cup held in March



Croquet NSW Golf Croquet Handicap Singles and Doubles 18 - 24 September, 2010

Following the success of this event at Maitland last September, the competition will be held this year on the Mid North Coast, jointly hosted by Taree and Gloucester Croquet Clubs. Gloucester CC is situated at Gloucester Park, Gloucester (opposite the Hydrotherapy Pool), and Taree CC at Taree Park is on the corner of Florence and Albert Streets. Whether competing in Singles, Doubles or both events, entrants will play at both venues and have the choice of either town for accommodation.

Information regarding motels, hotels and caravan parks in Taree is available on the Greater Taree City Council website - www.gtcc.nsw.gov.au - or you can phone the Visitor Information Centre on 6592 5444.

For Gloucester, accommodation information can be found on www.gloucester.org.au



Gloucester CC's Clubhouse

Taree CC is featured on p.10

Cowra Croquet Club

On 11 May, Cowra Croquet Club hosted one of their very popular Gala Days. The 12 members of our club welcomed 19 visitors from Orange and Young. The day looked promising and turned out to be the Autumn Day to dream of as far as outside activities go. We started off with mostly Golf Croquet, and some games of Association Croquet during the morning, keeping everyone busy and active.

Various skill activities were available to test our ability, and control of mallet and ball, which are always enjoyed. A break for lunch was followed by more 'Golf' for everyone, with lots of competitive shots being played. And of course the day finished with a delicious afternoon tea of mouth watering home cooking.

Our guests managed to carry off all the prizes for games and skills, but the home club was very pleased to keep the raffle which was won by Lorna Harding, and Chris Palazzi, the lucky door prize.

Tamworth Croquet Club

The Tamworth Croquet Club, which was formed in 1932, is small but very active. We play both Association and Golf Croquet and cater for all tastes in play. Inter-club play is limited as our neighbouring towns do not have croquet facilities.

This year has been very successful in introducing croquet to the local community through the Tamworth branch of the University of the Third Age (U3A). Michael and Barbara Bidencope, long-time members of the Tamworth Croquet Club, have very generously given their time to tutor these lessons, and as a result we have greatly increased our membership.

A group of high school students also make use of our lawn during their weekly sports afternoon, so we hope that some of these children will continue with this sport later.

We enjoy welcoming visitors to our club, who, being dedicated croquet players, ensure that their mallets are number 1 priority in their luggage. Recently we have had visitors from New Zealand and the South Coast, and very enjoyable games were played, with an exchange of club "doings" over the following cuppa.

So don't forget to call at our club for a game, if you ever venture this way in your travels - Tamworth Croquet Club will welcome you!

Annette Henry
President.

Many thanks to all our members who do such an excellent job with setting up the club house and being hostesses, and also the clean up at the end.



Jan Trengove, Martin Atkins (Orange) Rita Wade and Helen Bryant look on as Katrine Capps plays her shot.

Chris Palazzi.
President

**Maitland Croquet Club's
Star Realty, Sweet Pea Tournament**

7-9 March

Glorious weather prevailed for this unusual event. Originally held on St Patrick's Day, the tournament was called the "Sweet Pea" by Robyn Wallace, as it was traditionally the day to plant sweet peas. This doubles event is unusual in that it consists of 2 rounds, the first of level play and the second under handicap conditions. Not often is there an opportunity for players to match themselves under these two conditions in the one tournament. What an opportunity to "get even"!!! 68 players from as far afield as Urunga, Sydney, Newcastle, Cammeray, Canberra, Macquarie City, Taree, Toronto Wollongong, Blue Mountains, Port Macquarie, Jamberoo, Hurstville, Mount Sugarloaf, Branxton, Killara and Maitland took part.

Players were divided into 6 blocks for the 3 days. Block A had 7 pairs with handicaps stretching to 5 but most were 2's and 3's. When Jumping Joe Dimech is relegated to Block B the field has got to be very hot. Blocks B and C were composed of 6 pairs and blocks D, E and F were composed of 5 pairs. Competition was really fierce in all blocks with many surprises especially at the way players have learnt to handle extra turns.

Bev Smith organised a wonderful field of dedicated referees who kept all players on the straight and narrow and added to the esteem and integrity of the event. Maitland Club's traditional organisational skills were demonstrated again and the kitchen excelled with tasty foods for hungry players and workers. Lawns were a little more forgiving than in previous events due to the effects of the new watering system. Careless hoop shops received no mercy. New sponsors "Star Realty Maitland" certainly had plenty of exposure and a great welcome to the sport. Thanks for the confidence and hopefully we'll see you again during the year.

Barry Wells and Stephen (Junior) Dilley blitzed Block A and only dropped one game to Barbara Piggott and Stephen (Senior) Dilley in the level round. John Levick and Nick Macoun dropped 2, as did the team of John Compton and Peter Smith and that of John Martins and Graham Dark. The fight was on for second place. The Handicap round played lots of tricks with all but Barry and Stephen who won all six of their games and Pam and Dennis who only dropped 1.

As was expected Joe and Lyn Dimech cruised through the level play round to lead the teams of Bernie McAlary and Bill Haines and Margaret Seers and Lyn Hayes in Block B. However the handicap rounds were not too kind to the Dimech family. The old dark horses, Bob Hokin and Bob Eyre, won all their second round games to take out the overall result followed by the Macquarie City girls, Margaret Seers and Lyn Hayes.

Block C was a real nail biter. At the end of the level play round 3 teams were on 3 games and 3 teams on 2 so only net points separated them. Pat and Dot Moroney ensured

their long drive from Jamberoo was not in vain to lead at this stage. Close behind were Jack and Ingrid Cohen followed by John Purnell and Rita Murphy. A great rally in the handicap section saw Jack and Ingrid surge to the overall lead by winning 4 of their 5 games while Pat and Dot won 3 to come second overall.

Max Hird and Sue Phillips, two new players at Maitland club, led at the end of play in the level play section of Block D. Close behind were Trish Nitschki and Sue Agius narrowly leading Margaret Pedemont and Alan Graham. John and Katherine Love then put in a very determined result in the handicap section to win all their games and take second place overall but were unable to shake the consistency of Margaret and Allen who managed 3 wins to take first place.

Block E was a sea-sawing battle among all the players. The level play section saw Mt Sugarloaf's pair of Brenda Wild and Ron Bell victorious over Branxton couple Greg and Anne Freeman closely followed by Macquarie City's lovely Lorraine Craig and rapidly improving Alan Joass. Brenda and Ron had a dismal handicap section and saw the lead go to Maitland pairing of John Pace and Robyn Compton followed by the Freemans and Lorraine and Alan. The final story showed Ann and Greg too good (just) closely followed by John and Robyn (net of 10 different) and then Lorraine and Alan. A great level play result boosted Allan Garret and June Muston's overall chances of success in Block E. Jan Ingham and Lynn Reardon filled second spot and Cathy Hurst and Ellen Jones sneaked into third. The handicap section caused even more turmoil and confusion by allowing Cathy and Ellen to win that section ahead of Moira Burgman and Lynn Dooley followed by Jan and Lynn. This mixed the final result pot to show Allan's and June's lead too strong. Maitland's Cathy and Ellen followed in second place

A delightful three days finished with an outdoor presentation ceremony where the sponsor met and chatted to prize-winners and competitors. Many happy memories went home with the photos and result sheets and for those lucky enough a pleasing amount of cash.

Once again many thanks go to all those people who worked behind the scenes to make things happen. Trev Black had a very rewarding and educational experience acting as tournament manager for the first time. He very capably directed events and people so that a rewarding time was had by all.

**Peter Smith
Tournament Manager**



Winners of Block A, Maitland Club's Stephen Dilley (Jnr) and Barry Wells accept their prizes from Stuart Boyton of Star Realty Maitland

**Autumn Golf Croquet
Carnival at Young**

18—21 March

Near perfect weather conditions over the week preceding and during the carnival were most welcome for all players taking part in the event. This year the club had more improvements allowing extra sheltered seating and an office for the officials which proved a real asset to the running of the carnival. Participants travelled from many parts of the state from as far north as Urunga to Walla Walla in the south. Two Victorian clubs Rich River and Deniliquin were also represented.

Two referees, Tournament referee, Jim Clements and Graham Howie from Victoria officiated along with Gillian Powell as non playing referees and were assisted by player referees and several suitable people who have just completed their examinations and are awaiting their results. Our thanks go to them for their dedication to refereeing and the many hours on the court this entailed. The well attended Carnival dinner was held at the Australian Hotel where all players, members and friends gathered for an enjoyable meal and much frivolity.

The four days of very competitive games all played in good spirit showed some interesting handicap changes. Joe Dimech who entered on a handicap of two was changed to one after completing his last game. His jump shots were amazing and had to be seen to be believed. Congratulations Joe. It was pleasing to see first time block winners who gained more confidence as a result of their wins and the encouragement needed to play in more carnivals. Congratulations.

Results of the Doubles

Block A

Winners:- Joe Dimech (Taree) and Betty Ball (Jamberoo)
Runners Up:- John Compton (Maitland) and Patrick Hobson (Wollongong)

Block B

Winners:- Bill Haines (Blue Mountains) and Robyn Compton (Maitland)
Runners up:- Graham Innocent (Dubbo) and Helen James (Orange)

Block C

Winners:- Marlene Peterson (Young / Cowra) and Dot Moroney (Jamberoo)
Runners Up:- Roger Fox (Orange) and Jeff Pumpa (Rich River)

Results of the Singles

Block A

Winner:- Joe Dimech (Taree)
Runner up:- John Friend (Blue Mountains)

Block B

Winner:- Sylvia Andrews (Port Macquarie)
Runner up:- Graham Innocent (Dubbo)



Block C

Winner:- Margaret Sawers (Nowra)
Runner up:- Lyn Dimech (Taree)

Block D

Winner:- Bernice Carter (Bribie Island /Young)
Runner up:- Mike Speak (Blue Mountains)

Block E

Winner:- Robyn Compton (Maitland)
Runner up:- Joan Christopher (Wollongong)

Block F

Winner:- Jeff Pumpa (Rich River)
Runner up:- Roz Watson (Walla Walla)

At the conclusion of play a farewell afternoon tea and presentation completed the Carnival.

Many complimentary remarks were made about the running of the Carnival with players wishing to return next year to participate again. I must say I had a wonderful tournament committee and a team of hard working and dedicated members to help. Without them it could not have been the success it was.



Graham Howie, Jim Clements & Rob Watson



Kevin Page & Joe Dimech



Margie Long with Dot & Pat Moroney

**Gillian Powell
Tournament
Manager**

Golf Croquet Carnivals

Cheltenham Club

Our first Golf Croquet Carnival over three days was held Friday 5— Sunday 7 March. There were 18 entrants, with handicaps ranging from 4 to 12, and 9 clubs were represented. Terry Abbott acted as Tournament Referee and referees on call were allocated to each of the singles lawns.

This was a round robin competition. Hi/Lo Handicap and Open Doubles were played in two blocks of 4 teams each. All handicap games were completed in three sessions on the first day of play, whilst the Open games were played on the second day. The scores from each were combined to determine placings.

The Handicap Singles competition was played in three blocks of 6 players. These games were played over the three days of the carnival. The results follow.

Doubles:

Block A: John Fransen & Irene Abbott
Runners-up: Terry Abbott & Charlie Musara

Block B: Fay Stove & Carol Hayes
Runners-up: Tony McArthur & Lesley Fransen

Singles:

Block A: John Fransen Runner-up: Terry Abbott

Block A: Lesley Fransen Runner-up: Tony McArthur

Block A: Gay Stump Runner-up: Dion Stump

Three players (Lydia Mitchell, Gay Stump and Dion Stump) triggered to a lower handicap.

Rain had been predicted for the whole of the carnival, but, apart from a few light showers on the first day, the days were (very) warm and sunny. Each of the first two days started with two rounds of doubles matches with the third doubles match held after the lunch break.

A Tournament Dinner was held at the Cheltenham Recreation Club on the Saturday evening. The carnival concluded with lunch at the CRC when presentation were made to winners and runners-up.

Janelle Wood
Tournament Manager



Forster's April Carnival

The Forster Golf Carnival was played in what can only be described as magnificent weather that was greatly enjoyed by all the participants. This was the first tournament conducted using our new 4 court complex and as a result there was considerable change in the format. The event was run over 3 days with doubles on day 1 and singles on days 2 & 3. With 48 players involved there was a lot of pressure on the carnival management team to keep things

flowing smoothly.

The doubles competition was conducted in 6 blocks of 4 and the singles in 8 blocks of 6, a total of 120 singles matches in the 2 days. Players played 3 matches on one day and two on the other. The players were seeded into the blocks so the handicap differences were kept to a minimum. Matches were double banked and eight 50 minute sessions were played on day 1. Seven sessions were played on day 2 of the singles matches. The players cooperated splendidly and only about 6 games went for the full 50 minute period so we were able to keep matches on time, indeed we were ahead of time on every court.

In hindsight the doubles format probably offered too many prizes with 12 winners and 12 seconds but it did give many an opportunity to figure in an end result and certainly allowed players to meet one another.

The winners:

Block A: Joe Dimech from Taree (won 4 lost 1) won from John Hincks of Port Macquarie in what was a tightly contested block.

Block B: Bob Ogilvie (Mt Sugarloaf)

Block C: Graham Innocent (Dubbo)

Block D: Yvonne Bagnall (Gloucester)

In the Lower blocks Jackie Austin (Urunga), Denise Nelson (Port Macquarie), Sandy Coutts (Forster) and Lyn Reardon (Macquarie City) were successful.

Our thanks go to all who participated, particularly to all who assisted with the refereeing where Barbara McTiernan did a sterling job.

Clare Vize



Killara Croquet Club plays for the Patricia Porritt Trophy

In this one day Golf Croquet event, competitors play a high/low doubles event with a round robin in the morning and a final, best of three games, in the afternoon. The tournament was played on 16 March. The winners were Jill Auld and Fay Simpson. Pat Glandian and Mary Minns were runners up.

It was a fun day with perfect weather. The climax was the second game of the final. Fay's ball was in the jaws of hoop 1. In her next turn she played through hoop 1 and straight through hoop 2. At hoop 3 Fay's ball was again in the jaws. From there she played it straight down and through hoop 4. The score is now 4-0. Fay then made hoop 5. At hoops 6 and 7 Fay did two perfect jump shots. Score 7-0.

Patricia Goldrick
Club Captain

hoop 8 and so we still have probably another full day to finish this section.

The movie makers have good equipment and a professional approach and so there is a high probability that the final result will be a useful training aid. The only other GC training video we are aware of is a New Zealand one and the Movie Club people are confident that they can improve on that one.



After the filming has been completed there is a lot more work involved in editing, providing the graphics and adding the commentary and so we won't see the final much before the end of the year. If it is the success we hope, and expect, we might be able to sell it to other clubs and raise some funds for the three clubs involved.

Roger Evans



Vale

Nora Toms – Founding member of Urunga Croquet Club and recently a member of Sawtell Croquet Club



Joy Howard - made Life Member of CNSW in 1993 for work as a referee and examining referee.



We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of both Nora and Joy.

Association Croquet in NSW appears to be dying

(BUT DO WE CARE?)

Despite the fact that NSW has just won the Eire Cup I feel that some serious questions have to be asked of us all.

A brief look at the degree of participation in association croquet tournaments over the past 5 years shows a declining interest in entering NSW sponsored events in all but the elite levels.

The Silver and Gold Singles have shown a marked decline in interest this year with only 4 entries, in fact, the Silver event was only possible because a Bronze player backed up. The Silver and Gold Doubles each only had 3 entries and now the Fransted Trophy has had to be cancelled due to a lack of entries. In the past 5 years the Fransted has attracted up to 16 entries and no less than 10 so what has gone wrong this year.

How much longer can we effectively conduct events such as the Bronze, Silver and Gold Handicap, Win Dickinson, Eva Short and NSW Women's Open Singles events with only 4 entries? Even the 2009 Selectors 10 Invitation event had only 5 acceptances.

In many instances over the past two years, to my knowledge, events have only been able to take place because John Eddes has been chasing entries well after the entry closing date.

Should clubs be promoting these events and encouraging their members to participate? Should their Tournament Organisers be bringing entry dates to the attention of members?

Many clubs, despite substantial membership, struggle to put together Pennants teams without guest players. This surprises me because when I first joined I expected to be part of a team as in other sporting clubs, in fact, when asked, "why croquet?", I said, "It appears to be a game that will suit my competitive spirit".

I hear many reasons given for not participating in competition from not wanting to travel, our lawns are better, don't want to commit the time, Tempe's too hard to get to, I can get all the competition I want at our club.

Are our clubs not encouraging a competitive spirit? Are we so desperate for new members that we don't mention intra-club and state tournaments and only speak of the social aspects on offer?

Are our elite players doing enough at their club level to mentor and encourage new members to become competitors?

At the outset I asked, "Do we care?" I do but do you?

Brian Smith
(Eastwood & Killara Clubs)

More from Jamberoo Croquet Club

Association Croquet

We had a visit from two eager players left over from our recent Golf Tournament, John and Lesley Fransen, and, by all accounts, they had an enjoyable day. John Deeves played in Taree's "Wild Fig Carnival" coming third in his block. In the same week, seven of us travelled to Wollongong for a day's play which started out very cold but improved as the day progressed. Wollongong supplied a fine spread and great company. At day's end, they produced a couple of bottles of wine for the lucky gate prize which Jan Griffiths won but, alas, did not share.

Len and Diana Chafer will be flying the flag for Jamberoo at the "Narooma South Coast Shield". Nowra were two players short so Len and Diana agreed to help out

Marilyn Benson



Golf Croquet

Over the long weekend, we held an Anzac Memorial Golf Croquet Handicap Doubles Tournament with players coming from Forster, EDSACC, Maitland, Cheltenham, Mosman, Southern Highlands, Sutherland, Wollongong, Young and the Blue Mountains. We began the event with everyone playing four games, with a variety of partners and opponents, in a Getting-to-know-you contest. Points were awarded for successful jump shots and unexpected "fluke" shots! Nett points were recorded and this provided some interesting results. Only one player recorded four wins! The second part of the tournament was of a more serious nature. Blocks of eight pairs played in a round robin contest with everyone playing 7 games.



Blue Block



Green Block

Block winners were Bill Haines & Mike Speak (both of Blue Mountains) and Robyn Wallace (Maitland) & Peter Anderson (Southern Highlands). Runners-up were Garry Fensom & Olga Hough (Wollongong) and Dennis & Sylvia Shipp (EDSACC)

We have entered 4 teams in the CNSW Pennants Competition – 2 in division 2 and 2 in Division 3. For the Southern area, there are 5 teams in each division so each team will play 4 games. We hope to have a team in each semi-final and final in July!

Brenda Evans

Golf Croquet Training Video

The idea of developing a Golf Croquet training video was floated late last year and we have now put together a production team which includes The Wollongong Camera Club – Movie makers group, Jamberoo Croquet Club and Wollongong Croquet Club. The producer is Bob Kennedy who is a member of both the Movie makers and Wollongong Croquet Club. Bob is a graphic artist by trade and so he will also do the animation necessary. One of the features of the video will be the playing of a game between two Wollongong CC members (Olga Hough and



Rin Draisma) and two Jamberoo Players (Margaret Long and Evan Bathe). This game has been scripted to show a wide range of tactics as well as most of the common faults. It has taken a few weeks of work and several trial games to finalise the script.

Shooting of the 'epic' commenced on Friday 7th May with our No.2 lawn at Jamberoo providing the 'on location' background. The video is being shot in wide screen High Definition format. Some of the shots required many 'takes' to get right and after a day's filming (videoing?) we only managed to get the game as far as

Handicapping and You..

Croquet is a simple sport. Basically we try to hit balls through hoops. As in any human endeavour some of us will do it more consistently than others. Some of us are better at doing some things than others. I don't think I would get an argument from anyone about that statement so it comes as a bit of a shock when I look at the list of handicaps for each club in the state and find that there are a LOT of people who have **no handicap**.

".....But I don't want to play seriously".

".....but I don't want to play competition."

I hear those statements all the time from lots of lovely people who love their croquet and their social outings and I feel very humbled because I believe that croquet is a sport and in sport we endeavour to do our best and in so doing, often perform better than someone we are playing with. I simply can't not try. I love the game. I respect my opponents. BUT I try to beat them because that is the nature of sport as I see it. You may have another point of view and I will respect that, however I will have difficulty understanding how a person can consistently play a game and continually get beaten, or beat another player and not feel that there is something wrong.

I am not advocating that every game should be played for the proverbial "Sheep Station", but that the game should be fair and each player should have the opportunity to WIN. (Note that there are 3 letters in this word... it is not a bad word.)

Handicaps are intended to make the game fair for all.

Theoretically, if they are applied correctly they should allow players to win half their games. Now we all know what theories do, but at least handicaps make an attempt ...to give parity to all. With this in mind, I would advocate that all players should have a handicap assigned by their club handicapper and regular games under handicap conditions be played, especially in the social atmosphere of internal club play. It will take a bit of getting used to and a fair bit of fiddling to get the starting handicap established, but I think after a while the effort will be rewarded by a number of outcomes, not the least of which will be an occasional win by the perennial loser.

I am aware of a number of clubs who have one handicap game each day of club play (GC is easier to organise this way. AC might require 1 game a week). Players have become expert in using their extra turns and calculating how many of these precious commodities they are entitled to.

Please think about this and pester your club handicapper to test you and assign a handicap to you. You never know you might even enjoy beating someone who has spoiled many of your days but most importantly of all, the playing field will be that little bit more even and sport and you will both be winners.

More on Handicaps

As some of you may have noticed there is some movement happening on the CNSW website in the handicap listing. I am trying hard to keep it up to date as a help to event managers and club handicappers when deciding who should be in which group etc. The list also provides some bragging rights and helps us track one another's progress in the game.

Unfortunately the list does not magically keep track of what is happening on the lawn. It requires tournament managers, club games captains/handicappers and players to feed information to me so that the list can be updated and sent to David Archer to put up on the web. (Note: although I am looking after both golf and association handicap lists, Tim Murphy requires his copy of event results too).

Take a little time to look at the newly revised handicap regulations and you will find out about the processes which allow your handicap to change. Club handicappers in particular play a very important role in setting and adjusting handicaps and I would really appreciate the regular notification of changes (eg through club singles championship events and non automatic handicap adjustments). Tournament managers have a newly revised AHS form which should make its way to us at the conclusion of each singles event.

Also take a little time to check the website list and update us (through your club handicapper) of any errors. As I am trying to also keep a history of when your handicap changes (so that informed decisions about non automatic changes can be made when necessary) it would be good if you could include date of change and new index.

Having played a few handicap events lately I am aware that there are many ideas of how extra turns should be used wisely. Why not jot down a few of your ideas on this subject and submit them for inclusion in future Newsletters so that we can look at some different ideas from which we could all benefit.

Peter Smith



Croquet wasn't meant to be easy - the results of a hard day at the Golf Croquet Nationals for Peter Smith or is it what administering Handicaps can do to you!

Photo courtesy Geof McDonald



Busy Days at Jamberoo

On Thursday 25th March, seven Wollongong members paid us a visit for a Friendship Day. Included in the event were five of our own, plus Margaret Sawers from Nowra. Before the start of play we had a surprise visit from President Harry who arrived just in time for morning tea. He then welcomed our visitors and wished us an enjoyable day. Each player had three games, with four enthusiastic players staying back for a game of doubles. Our Tournament went very well with lots of positive comments from all players. We experienced great weather without a drop of rain. The wet weather gear that we had expected to be using was substituted by sunscreen.

Red Block was won by Russell Megarrity (Milton/Ulladulla) who won all his games and considering the calibre of his opponents it was a fantastic effort. Runner up was John Gilhooly also from Milton/Ulladulla.



Blue Block was won by Joanne Carmichael from Sutherland who also won all of her games. Runner up was Margaret Atkinson from Wollongong. As an ex Jamberoo player we can claim Margaret as one of us.



Green Block was won by Pam Durie and runner up was Ben Durie, both from Toronto.



I would like to thank those good cooks who supplied all the home baked goodies. I was able to sample each exhibit, with John Griffiths' chocolate slice being my favourite. To Diana Chafer and her kitchen crew (Shirley Deeves and Jan Griffiths) "you make a good sandwich." To David Simmonds, Stan Brierley, John Deeves, David Probert, John Griffiths and Pat Moroney, thank you for getting the lawns into great shape each morning. A Tournament cannot run successfully without teamwork and I certainly had that. Shall we go again next year?



At the conclusion of our tournament I was humbled by the presentation of a floral tribute by David Simmonds on behalf of the JCC Association members.

Marilyn Benson

Walla Walla Golf Croquet Tournament

Walla Walla held their annual Golf Croquet Tournament with a Round-robin Doubles event on Friday 21 May and the Singles events on Saturday 22 May. Players numbered 57 over the two events, of these 31 were visitors - 1 from Dubbo, 5 from Young, 3 from the Southern Highlands, 4 from Wagga Wagga, 7 from Wodonga and 11 from Albury. For once, the weather was very good to us and this resulted in some extremely good play with some very tight games.

The results of the Round-robin Doubles event:

First: Max Eyers (Albury) 4 games 35
Second: Kerry Loane (S. Highlands) 4 games 34
Third: Shirley Close (Young) 4 games 33
Fourth: Graeme Innocent (Dubbo) 4 games 29

The results of the Singles events:

Section 1:

First: Graeme Innocent (Dubbo) 3 games 6
Second: Kerry Loane (S. Highlands) 3 games 0

Section 2:

First: Melba Muller (Walla Walla) 4 games 28
Second: Brenda Bruhn (Albury) 3 games 12

Section 3:

First: Ken Pullen (Walla Walla) 4 games 27
Second: Veronica Foard (Wodonga) 2 games 21

Section 4:

First: Christine Pullen (Walla Walla) 3 games 7
Second: Jackie Woolfe (Young) 3 games 4

Section 5:

First: Belle Cahill (Walla Walla) 4 games 19
Second: Merwyn Newton (Walla Walla) 3 games 7

Roz Watson & Ruth Kotzur
Tournament Manager and President

DOUBLE TAP VS BALL CRUSH

A number of incidents over the last month have revealed that a number of players, even at the elite level, are not aware of what is colloquially known as a 'ball crush'. Players are aware of a crush around a hoop and a ball crush is an extension of this rule, but with another ball and not the hoop or peg.

A 'ball crush' normally only occurs when the striker's ball and target ball are in close proximity, but not touching, prior to the commencement of the stroke.

The 2007 Edition of the Rules of Golf Croquet introduced a new rule and it appears not all players are aware of the consequences of the rule. Rule 13 (a) (8) states 'It is a fault if, in striking, the striker causes the striker's ball while still in contact with the mallet to touch another ball, unless the balls were in contact before the stroke.'

The rule has been carefully worded and doesn't refer to simultaneous contact of the two balls and mallet, but refers to the striker playing in such a way as to cause both balls to touch while the striker's ball is still in contact with the mallet.

The same factors should be taken into consideration to determine if a fault has been played for both 'double taps' and a 'ball crush', but the main factor to consider to determine if a 'ball crush' has occurred is the separation distance of the balls prior to the stroke. In both cases the best way to judge the fairness of the stroke for ball in close proximity is the ratio of travel of both balls and the angle of separation.

Assume a separation distance of 12mm (1/2 inch), a ball departing at an angle less than 45° from a straight hit will normally be called a 'double tap'. Any angle greater than 45° will usually not be called a fault.

For a separation distance greater than 12 mm the angle of separation decreases and another visual determination is the type of shot played and the ratio the balls travel in relation to one another, even if hit along the line of centres. If the ratio the target ball travels with respect to the striker's ball is greater than 10:1 than it will not usually be called a fault.

As the angle of separation of the striker's ball and target ball decreases, the likelihood of a 'ball crush' increases and the angle of safe departure increases from 45° to approximately 88°. At a distance of under 4mm any stroke played at an angle of separation less than 88° can confidently be called a fault. In order for it *not* to be a fault it needs to exit almost at right angles (90°) and the ratio of travel of the striker's ball to the target ball should be greater than 20:1 as the striker's ball will just skim the target ball.

While at a separation distance of greater than 12mm, a player can avoid a 'double tap' if the shot is played correctly, the introduction of Rule 13 (a) (8) increases the likelihood of a fault for a separation distance of less than 12mm as the striker can cause the balls to touch while the

striker's ball is in contact with the mallet.

The introduction of this rule makes it easier for referees to determine if a fault has occurred when the balls are in close proximity, because if it is not a 'double tap' unless played correctly it will be a 'ball crush' and the referee can be confident in calling a fault.

It is hoped that this article clears up some of the confusion surrounding the interpretation of a 'ball crush' and how to avoid being called for a fault while playing. Players should remember that referees are only there to implement the rules written by the governing body and are not responsible for the player's lack of knowledge or shot selection.

Further information on this topic is available in the Golf Croquet Referee's Manual available on the ACA Website.

Barb Piggott
Captain, Urunga Croquet Club

Authorised for publication by:
Jan Sage
State Director of Refereeing



Association Croquet Rules in Action

What is wrong in this scenario?

RaY played a hoop approach, did not achieve a good position so played the striker's ball to the front of the hoop. BaB played and missed. RaY then ran the hoop and prepared to play a continuation stroke when he was stopped by the referee and told that it was a fault if the turn does not begin with a roquet. The referee then replaced the ball. RaY questioned the ruling, but it was declared correct by the opponent BaB, who then played and won the game.

Is this a fault? Certainly NOT under Law 28. If it were, then the rectification would be the adversary's choice, not the referee's.

Is this another turn ending error? No, not according to Law 4 (d) (1).....A turn ends if in a stroke other than a croquet stroke, the striker's ball does not make a roquet or score a hoop point for itself;

In other words, "a turn continues if the striker's ball makes a roquet or scores a hoop point for itself." RaY would then play the continuation stroke onto the partner ball – roquet – take croquet, etc, etc.

It is because of serious mistakes like this that Referees need to maintain their skills with plenty of practical refereeing and attendance at refresher and updating workshops.

Jan Sage
State Director of Refereeing

Contd from p. 13

Ron defeated Nick and John defeated Peter to set up a final between Ron and John. Ron eventually outplayed and outstayed John, winning a very topsy-turvy 3 set battle.

Special thanks to Bev Smith, the tournament referee, and her team of referees – Bill Haines, Jacky McDonald, Kath Coull, Betty Daniel, Max Hooper and John Compton, who gave freely of their time to ensure the competition ran smoothly. The players appreciated having referees for all their matches.

My sincere thanks to all the players and referees who helped ensure a smooth and successful Open Singles Championship.

**Robyn Compton
Manager**



At the CNSW Meeting held on Saturday, 5 June, President Robyn Wallace announced the following:

“One piece of news which really is hot off the press:

NSW was the only state to submit a motion to the ACA AGM. Initiated by our Senior Vice-President, John Compton, it related to the setting up of separate ACA Selection Committees for Association Croquet and Golf Croquet.

A vote on this was unanimously in favour of the NSW proposal, and a teleconference will be held on June 23rd to amend the Handbook, vote for three nominees for the GC selection committee, and report on other matters in relation to the new ACA Executive Director (announced at the recent Australian GC championships) and the establishment of a Canberra office.

When the NSW motion was discussed at the ACA AGM it became obvious that most states have moved to, or are moving towards, a separation for practical purposes of the administration of the two major 'codes', a separation our Council has already agreed to in principle. South Australia had found that the workload for those trying to administer both was too great. ACA is in a similar situation with the as yet unfilled position of National Director of Refereeing: the job is simply too big for one person to handle any longer on a (necessarily) volunteer basis. Watch this space”.

Golf Croquet Pennants Update

The State Pennants is progressing slowly in some areas but quite rapidly in others. The Southern region has completed all matches in Division 3 while in Division 2 Jamberoo has already qualified for the finals by winning all its matches. Division 2 Metropolitan is looking to be a close affair with both Eastwood and Mosman 2 looking very strong. The Northern region has been slow getting up to speed but with only 3 teams in both Divisions 2 & 3 they will complete all matches in time for the finals. Division 3 Metropolitan is dragging the chain more than other regions and as it contains the most teams, with some clubs having played no matches as yet, time may run out for them. Two teams from this group will qualify for the finals if all matches are completed so it is imperative for some expediency in arranging games. Division 1 will be played during June between Newcastle, Maitland and Sutherland - the logistics become a problem for these teams due to other playing commitments.

**John Compton
Manager GC Pennants**



Another piece of information that Robin has referred to in her column is the following announcement by ACA :

“The ACA Executive in conjunction with the ACA Selectors is pleased to announce the following nominations for the WCF World Over 50 Golf Croquet Championship. Australia was initially awarded 4 places by the WCF. 7 more players have been offered Wildcard places.

The following players are formally offered places in the Championship:

1. John Levick*
2. Ron Johnstone*
3. Nick Macoun*
4. Martyn Prins*

The following players have been offered Wildcard places:

5. Kim Reynolds
6. Peter Freer*
7. Joe Dimech*
8. Peter Smith*
9. John Compton*
10. Anna Miller
11. Ash Farah

We wish you all the very best of luck”.

(Note: Members of CNSW have been marked *)



Strathfield Club Snippets

It has been a very stimulating year to date, and I feel I have really had my skates on, as have our club members. In February, we received a phone call from a Senior Lecturer, Dr Stephen Burke of the Exercise and Sports Science Department at the Catholic University, Strathfield Campus. He wished to introduce his students to a number of different sports. Stephen's call led to our club members, during March, introducing 'Aussie Croquet' to his 80 Third Year students, and Association Croquet to 19 of those who chose to return for an elective session in the third week. The sessions were of two hour duration. Some of these University Students have since chosen to



complete assignments incorporating a croquet theme. We received very positive feedback from both Stephen and his students, and this activity is likely to continue as Stephen has asked us to teach his Second year students in 2011. Jacky McDonald said that we were the only club presently teaching croquet in the University Sector. So other Clubs near Universities might like to consider offering such programs in future years. We might eventually get croquet included as an inter-varsity sport! The ripple effects can be enormous, as such students may eventually work in fields such as Health, Sport, and Education. We have already had someone wishing to join our club, who was attracted to the sport, partly by seeing the photo (shown above) of these students in the local paper.

Also in March, four members (including 2 new members) played in the Cheltenham Golf Croquet Carnival, and under Terry Abbott's kind tutelage in the Hi/Lo Handicap Doubles, one of our new members Charlie Musarra, came runner-up in the doubles section. Then, my husband Keith and I went over to Eastwood Club a number of times, and experienced the game of Ricochet, which we enjoyed very much. We have now introduced that game to our Club.

In April, we started a 3 month trial to experiment with certain games on specific days and times (as many clubs already do). Included in the trial, is an extension of our



Charlie Musara receives his prize at Cheltenham from Janelle Wood (competition organiser)

playing hours to include afternoons on our weekday playing days of Monday and Thursday. Contact the secretary or myself, if seeking further information as we love having visitors.

We involved ourselves in Seniors' Week, by offering a 'Come & Try Golf Croquet and Ricochet Experience'. Further introductory days for the community will occur on the 3rd and 8th May. We plan to hold four 'normal' open days a year. However in June, we are involved in a new project called 'Sport-a-Month' which is part of a joint initiative involving Ashfield & Burwood Councils, who have undertaken to advertise different local sports, each for one month a year. Our month is June.

We plan to play in the Pennants this year, starting with Association Croquet, but Pennants Golf Croquet participation may not be far off. My advertisement for experienced players to consider joining our club did bear fruit, and I encourage those still thinking about it, to give it a go.

**Ruth Bridger
Publicity Officer**

Editor's comment: Strathfield Club was so keen to send in these photos that they came through to me 132 times, over a period of more than five hours!! One of the vagaries of online communication no doubt!



VISIT THE CNSW
WEB SITE @
<http://www.croquet-nsw.com>





**Ballina
Croquet
Club's
Winter
News**

As summer slipped quietly into autumn up here on the NE coast, the pace of croquet and its various associated activities has picked up. We recently held a Friendship Day as well as the Golf Croquet Day in March, to which Alstonville, Lismore and Casino sent players. Several newcomers to Golf Croquet took part and had a most enjoyable time. It was a day of sunshine and showers, but for the most part it was sunshine all the way. Like the Scouts, we are always prepared up here, with our raincoats not far away. All the HI/LO games were completed, with the play-off for the LO handicappers resulting in a win for Joan Collison from Lismore and Barry Waters, also from Lismore, the winner of the HI handicapped game.



President Mary Hughes with visitors at Friendship Day April 2010



Did they really come just for the tea?

However, there is trouble in Paradise. You may be aware, dear reader, that for the last 15 months, our Croquet Club has been in dispute with Ballina Bowling & Recreation Club (Club Ltd) over the lease of our croquet lawns. Despite this, our club continues to prosper, all members enjoy their croquet and we have welcomed many new players to our lawns.

In May our Croquet Club sought the help of the Community Justice Centre to resolve our differences, to

which Club Ltd consented and a long day of argument and counter argument ensued. At the end of it all, we came to satisfactory conclusions to most of our problems and an agreement to discuss other points in a calm and reasonable manner was reached.

So there you are folks, if at first you don't agree – mediation, mediation, mediation....

**Jan Humphrey
Publicity**



**Mt
Sugarloaf
Croquet
Club**



Our club plays on the old West Wallsend Bowling Club lawns, which is now leased by Mercy Community Services. We are a young club with 15 members playing three mornings a week. All our members are very active with a number of playing in and winning some local gala days. Our members' ages range from 18 to 80 years young.

As only three members has played croquet before, we are all learning court etiquette and game rules which make playing croquet very enjoyable.

Last year we competed in the Hunter Pennants Competition. This was the first time four of our members had played competition Golf Croquet, with a very pleasing tenth position out of sixteen teams. We will be competing again this year and hope to improve our position. We found that by competing our knowledge of the rules of the game have improved.

This year has seen some members playing away from home with great results. As a result of this, their handicaps have changed.

We also have two members registered to deliver Croquet skills in Active After School Communities Programs (AASC). In Term 1 of this year, we attended Shortland Public School to deliver the AASC program to approximately 20 children with fantastic results. The teachers had advised us that during the days after our lessons the students were very excited. We hope to deliver croquet to other schools in Terms 3 & 4.

Once a month, we as a club have lunch at West Wallsend Workers Club as they have supported our club with some equipment purchases.

Anyone passing through Lake Macquarie/Newcastle is more than welcome to come and enjoy a game of Golf Croquet at our very scenic club.

**Brenda Wild
Secretary**

In hindsight, I probably should not have taken on the manager's role, as I found it difficult to prepare myself to play and maintain concentration during play.

Stephen Howes (Cammeray) was winner of the event with Bruce Buchanan (Mosman) the runner-up.



**Brian Smith
Manager**

**NSW Men's Golf Croquet Open Singles
15 – 18 April**

The weather was good; the croquet was interesting and very competitive. No one could be taken lightly. The music and strudel from Concordia was enjoyable but the children and their inattentive sometimes-rude parents presented some problems on Saturday and Sunday. Just the usual at Tempe! Apart from demolishing the biscuits all participants were focussed on winning as many games and matches as was possible physically and mentally.

Mike Jenner proved to be superior to all comers only dropping a game to Bernie McAlary and a match to Nick Macoun. "2 Blades" Johnstone remained consistent throughout even beating his doubles partner John Levick in the last carry over game to ensure runner – up status. John Compton withdrew on the fourth morning with a back problem and so all results were amended to accommodate the withdrawal. There were 29 games decided at the 13th hoop – that's the luck or lack of it in 13-point games.

Special thanks to Bev Smith, the tournament referee, and her band of referees – Jacky McDonald, Ingrid Cohen, Wendy Fothergill, Bill Haines, Kath Coull, Jude Wilmore, Ros Johnstone and John Eddes who gave at least one day of their time and energy to ensure that games were refereed in a professional manner. The efforts of these people prepared to referee all day with little reward except a love of the sport was greatly appreciated by the players. Well done all the referees.

Thanks to the technophiles or reverse Luddites - Martyn, Peter F, John E and Dennis - for their willingness, even eagerness, to help a new manager to navigate through the recording system.

Congratulations to all the players for their play, their support and their friendliness to the organising staff and each other, making for a happy but competitive tournament. Best of 3 matches takes high degrees of cooperativeness, concentration and commitment as well as energy. The Men's Singles was a high quality event well worth watching and much appreciated by all the spectators.



**Robyn Compton
Tournament Manager**

**NSW Golf Croquet Open Doubles
26 - 28 April**

Conditions were generally pleasant with the lawns double cut and running between 8.5 and 9.5 plummers. Many thanks to Rosie for her pre-dawn grass-mowing efforts. Play was at times very competitive, with 17 of the 66 matches decided at the 13th hoop. Chris Pont and Max Wiltshire's efforts under pressure were noteworthy, with 5 of their 11 matches decided at the 13th hoop. The pre-tournament prediction that 7 wins would be enough to reach the semis fell short of the mark, as the closeness of the competition led to all 4 semi-finalists getting 9 wins. Many thanks to the many assistant managers who organised food, drink, score sheets, and cleaning up - much appreciated.

**Martyn Prins
Manager**

Commentary on the best of 3 final:

The massed spectators definitely got their money's worth with the best-of-three final, which started at 8:30am, not finishing until shortly after 1:30pm. While the calibre of play on the day was not the highest displayed by the four finalists over the course of the tournament, with a number of missed hoops, there was plenty to keep the interest level up including:

- Christine 'jawsing' hoop 13 from halfway between three and six on the South boundary with Nick in position 2 yards out. She and Max won the first game 7-6.
- Mike and Nick taking a 6-0 lead in the second but not getting the elusive 7th hoop until #10, to take the second 7-3
- Nick scoring 8 from level with 7 for a 5-3 lead in the decider with both Chris and Max in position, Chris scoring 9 from the North boundary to cut the deficit to 5-4 with both Nick and Mike in position

Many thanks to Ron Johnstone for refereeing the final, to Martyn Prins for Tournament Management, and to John Levick, Rosie Graham, Jackie McDonald and Ros Johnstone for spectating some or all of the final.

**Mike Jenner
(who was partnered by Nick Macoun)**



**NSW Golf Croquet Open Singles
29 April – 2 May, 2010**

What an interesting 4 days of golf croquet! Congratulations to all 13 competitors for their participation and for the very high standard of croquet played. All players gave their all, both physically and mentally, enthraling the spectators with their skilful play and tactical know-how.

The quarterfinalists were John Levick, Peter Smith, Peter Freer, Martyn Prins, Max Wiltshire, Ron Johnstone, Nick Macoun and Pam Gentle. These matches were played over 3 games with the winners being John, Peter F, Ron and Nick.

Contd on p. 14



REPORTS

Gold Doubles 16-18 February

There was a disappointing number of entries for this tournament – even after the handicap range had been extended, there were only three pairs entered, so a double round robin was played. The critical day was day 2, when the winning partnership of Jackie McDonald and Peter Smith lost their first game to Margaret Burke and Brian Smith by one hoop, then won their second game against them by a single point. Although there was some splendid roqueting, the overall standard of play was moderate, with only one game being pegged out.

Winners were Jacky McDonald and Peter Smith with runners-up, Margaret Burke and Brian Smith



*Neil Hardie
Manager*

Bronze Singles 22-26 February

Day 1 was a particularly hot day. At 10.30am the outside temperature was 30 degrees in the shade. At 1.30pm it was 34 degrees and at 2.30pm 35 degrees. Wall Fernance was unable to play his second game suffering from heat exhaustion and Geoff Boyce kindly agreed to suspend their game to be played on Friday morning at 7am before the last games of the competition began at 9.30am. Another player, Georgina Offner, was suffering visible distress with only 30 minutes time left on the clock of the second game. Patricia Gilchrist (Georgina's opponent) agreed that it would be best to suspend play for the day. Patricia and I received a lesson in how to peg down a game from Dennis Faggotter, an experienced ex-state team player and referee. It was really interesting and a valuable experience for all concerned.

Day 2 was much more tolerable with a cool wind blowing across the lawns. Wall Fernance and Georgina Offner had recovered and both were able to play again. John Campey has donated a thermometer to CNSW which will be housed on the Manager's table to be put out first thing before competition play. Next day, John Campey fixed the equipment trolley for lawn 2. "Thank you John for saving our backs." It is very difficult to try to steer a two wheel trolley with six hoops, a croquet centre peg, four flags and eight corner pegs etc on only one wheel.

The winner of the competition was John Campey (Epping) with 6 wins out of 7 games, and the runner up was David Stanton (Cammeray) with 4 wins out of 7 games. Overall, three players had 4 wins, three had 3 wins and one had 1 win with an 18 point score. An inspiring competition for all concerned as everyone had a win. The game scores show that the competition was fierce with anyone being a contender for the Bronze Title. Well done John and David.



*Lesley Fransen
Manager*

Silver Singles 2-4 March

Disappointing again to see only 3 silver players enter this tournament, so a double round robin was played. To gain experience, David Stanton (Cammeray) Handicap 14, entered. He accredited himself very well, winning 2 games. Although a couple of players are approaching the gold division, I couldn't help noticing their lack of confidence to make 1 back & continue to 3 back & set a leave. Likewise, there was often reluctance to retrieve balls from corners & boundaries, especially if it was an opponent's ball. Apart from this there were some close & interesting games.

Alan Crapp (Chatswood) who is studying the Umpires Exam papers, came out to Tempe on Wednesday morning to help referee, again to get experience.

Thank you to the players for their assistance in setting up, & clearing the lawns each day.

Congratulations to winner Bob Green and runner-up Greg Deakin.



*Heather Smallbone
Manager & Referee*

Senior Citizens Week Competition

Day 1 was quite a pleasant day as it was cool and overcast with wet weather jackets required for a while in the morning. The results for the day were quite interesting as each player had won one and lost one. At the end of the day Michael Mills was in the lead and Stephen Howes in last place but threatening.

Day 2 was a warm to hot day, very humid and tiring. Brian Smith lost both games badly and dropped out of any consideration; Georgie Ofner used her bisques well to record two wins and take the lead at the end of the day. Stephen Howes managed to get his game together to move into second place.

Day 3 was a cooler day, overcast for much of the day with a good breeze. Mac Thomson at last felt that his game had come back, recording two wins as did Michael Mills and Stephen Howes. At the day's conclusion Stephen led with 5 wins from Mac on 4.

Day 4 - a warm day but not an unpleasant one. It produced some surprises. Stephen lost to Michael Mills, Greg lost the unloseable having both clips on rover and Bruce only on 3 & 4, Georgie, a 16 handicap player had a run of 11 using only 3 bisques and Mac losing to Bob Green by one point. Interestingly, Stephen in first place and the writer in last place were the only players finishing the tournament with net negative points.

During the week (because handicaps are updated immediately a trigger point is crossed) Stephen Howes was promoted to a 3 and Mac Thomson relegated to a 7. Bruce Buchanan came to within 1 point of going to Platinum on two occasions only to lose the following game.

Eastwood Croquet Club

In Seniors Week in March, Eastwood hosted a Seniors morning which we advertised in the Seniors Week Events Magazine. We had a great response with 15 players coming to play Golf Croquet. It was a wonderful morning with visitors of all ages and men and women and even children! I'm not sure if the children qualified as 'Seniors' but they played very well, even with the large mallets. All the participants enjoyed the socialising at morning tea (provided by our members) and on the courts, playing with some members and some visitors. There was a great deal of hilarity, some amazing shots from the beginners (some of which I am not sure are in the manual!) and the day ended with several visitors becoming members afterwards. It was a great success and we thank all the members who contributed to the day. We are hoping to have another free day in August or September.

Also in March, the Club was extremely fortunate to have Jacky and Geof McDonald come and coach our members in Golf Croquet. Our Club has mainly played Association but the demand for Golf Croquet from our community is increasing and we needed to have some professional instruction. All of us tried, with varying degrees of success, to make a jump shot and this will be something that will take a lot of practice. One member, Margaret Davey, succeeded with her first shot and has certainly got the knack. We are all hoping to emulate the wonderful winning shot at the Australian Championships by Alix Verge, but I think we will not be bettering her shot for quite a while. Jacky and Geof were inspiring teachers, both of them very patient, explaining shots and tactics clearly and working very well together. They had to leave home at 6am to get to Eastwood and only left at 3pm so it was a very long day for them. We really appreciate their expertise and dedication to the game and hope that our improvement in Golf Croquet will be a positive testament to their coaching!

Our Club participated in the Ryde Sports Foundation Golf Croquet tournament in April. This was held on Saturday, 10 April and was a round robin tournament with 16 members taking part and playing 13 hoops in each game. Ruby Blissett and Cathe Sparrow were the timekeeper and scorer and kept all the games running smoothly. It was a very close result with the winning team only pulling clear in the last game of the day. On Saturday 24 April at a Presentation Afternoon held at the Club, the President of the Ryde Sports Foundation, Mr Jim Hull, and the Secretary, Mrs Nieta Matthews, presented the gold medals and the trophy to the winners for 2010, Mrs Ruth Bridgwood and Mrs Margaret Cruikshank. Congratulations to them both.

Competitions

Eastwood has again entered in the Golf Pennants and our teams are looking forward to meeting the other teams in competition. Brian Smith, Greg Deakin, Pat Gilchrist and Dorothy Pratt have been playing in the Beryl Chambers Competition and winning games.

Our Club competitions for each grade commence on 1 May for Championship, Silver and Bronze divisions. We will also be conducting the Nella Melchert Memorial Trophy Association Croquet competition for pairs of high and low bisque players in September/ October. The Friendship Games (Association Croquet) will be played between Strathfield, Cheltenham, Epping and Eastwood in September, Epping holding the trophy from 2009.

Geof and Jacky McDonald with some of our members after a Golf Croquet coaching session at the Club



The winners of the Ryde Sports Foundation medals for 2010, Ruth Bridgwood and Margaret Cruikshank.

*Shirley McLachlan
Secretary*



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**Opening of Court 3 Taree Croquet Club
Saturday 10th April**

More than sixty guests gathered at Taree Croquet Club to celebrate the naming and opening of the third court. After morning tea all but the official party moved to the shelter of a large marquee and the Elm tree. Members of the official party were led to their seats by Piper, Bob Gow.



MC for the event, Will Paulson, introduced the various speakers and provided small, interesting pieces of history of the 73 year old club. Club President welcomed all who attended the celebration. Greater Taree City Council Mayor, Paul Hogan, offered his congratulations and discussed the growth and importance of the club to the district. Croquet NSW Senior vice President John Compton spoke of the significance of the development of one club to the sport as a whole. Peter Britt from the Department of Sport and Recreation in Newcastle congratulated the club, the members and the project officer Phill Sage on a job well done.



Wendy McKeough and Councillor Alan Tickle

Club Patrons Wendy McKeough and Councillor Alan Tickle were both proud and pleased to be connected with the Club and this exciting progress. Wendy announced that the court was to be named the Phill Sage Court in recognition of the years of planning, work and co-ordinating that the project required. Phill then spoke of the wonderful support that he received from Council, local businesses, community groups, district croquet clubs and their members, Department of Sport and Recreation, Wesley's Employment Services, and a friend and green keeper from his golfing days who taught him so much about grass playing surfaces. On behalf of all who

encouraged and supported the project he accepted a Salute from the Piper.

Neta Oram, a club member for 49 years opened the court by cutting a green ribbon, and the first hoop was run by Millie Drury (pictured below) a member for 28 years.



The courts were then very busy and colourful with players who took a break for a delicious light lunch and then resumed playing until well into the afternoon.



Sydney Club celebrates

75 years at Woollahra Park



In what could only be described as a perfect day for a party, Sydney Croquet Club celebrated the 75th anniversary of its occupation of lawns at Woollahra Park. The Club began in 1922 using lawns at Rushcutters Bay. When it was not possible to secure permanent occupancy there, approaches were made to Woollahra Council, which undertook the task of two purpose built lawns and a log cabin clubhouse. We have enjoyed this little known oasis for the past seventy-five years.

In attendance were the President of Croquet NSW, Robyn Wallace, the Mayor of Woollahra, Andrew Petrie, State Member for Vacluse and current Club Patron, Peter Debnam and his wife Debra, Vice-President of Woollahra Golf Club, Jim Sweeney, and Philip Reed, Board Member of the Golf Club, former Club Patron, Rose Watson, members of the club, past members and representatives from other croquet clubs – Cammeray, Cheltenham, Hurstville, Strathfield and our neighbours Royal Sydney Golf Club.

After short speeches by Club President, Ingrid Cohen, CNSW President Robyn and the Mayor of Woollahra, Peter Debnam was asked proposed a Toast to the Club.

A special Jubilee cake was the centre of attention. Rose Watson and Patricia Rogers, a member since 1990, were invited to cut the cake.

Formalities over, all present were able to enjoy games of croquet and partake of a delicious brunch. It was a very happy day and it is onwards now to the next milestone – the club's centenary in 2022 and a century at Woollahra in 2035!



Speeches in Progress



Cutting the Jubilee Cake



Enjoying a game of Golf Croquet



Wendy Fothergill



Dubbo Croquet Club

Our local website has just been updated and looks much prettier. The latest Newsletter, issue number 5, can be available for download.

<http://croquet-dubbo.cameracheckpoint.com.au/>

In the last three, months Dubbo has had some success in tournaments and carnivals.



We congratulate Dot and Leon O'Mally for their wins in both the Orange Autumn Carnival and the Young carnival.



We also congratulate Graham Innocent with a first place at Forster, a second place at Young, and first place at Walla Walla - all in Golf Croquet. It is also a pleasure to advise that Graham is now a fully qualified Golf Croquet Referee.

On 22nd and 23rd May we had a VERY successful visit by Orange City Croquet Club for friendship Golf Croquet matches. Originally scheduled for November last year but postponed due to the extreme heat, we finally got together. Six players from Orange - Bev Duncan, Sally and Martin Atkins, Helen James, Roger Cox and Kath Farrell came and gave us solid competition. It was agreed that the total hoop score by a club, for the week-end, would determine the winner.

We played a total of 16 Doubles games and 32 Singles games. While Dubbo won the Doubles we got well and truly beaten in the Singles, and Orange won the week-end with 191 Hoops against Dubbo's 169 Hoops. It was a most enjoyable time with good matches, good friendship, and great fun. We agreed that a return match would be in order in the near future.

Our AGM will be held on June 19 and we will see Dot O'Mally step down as President as well as Leon O'Mally stepping down as Treasurer. Their shoes will be hard to fill - we have a job ahead of us.

Ben Veng

