

NEWSLETTER

October 2022



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BRAVE BLUES IN DRAMATIC FINAL DAY VICTORY AT THE INTERSTATE SHIELD (ISS) IN ADELAIDE

The Golf Croquet Interstate series boiled down to this. Three teams with a chance to win on the final day. West Australia, hosts South Australia and New South Wales all had numerical opportunities to snatch the coveted shield, but few could have predicted the heroic final day charge the blues would mount.

Playing Victoria in the final round, a team which had won 10 of the previous 11 ISS titles, NSW put in a breathtaking and clinical performance. The two teams locked horns in 20 matches over the day, with NSW winning an incredible 8 of them, while limiting the Vics to just a single win! The remaining seven matches were halved. This performance rocketed NSW into a possible winning position, but the overall result remained swinging in the balance, as the West Aussies and South Australia

battled it out at another venue.

On tenterhooks right to the end, the blues team huddled around a table and waited nervously as results dribbled in. It wasn't until scores from the very last matches of the WA/SA test came through did they realize the shield was coming back to New South Wales for the first time in more than a decade.

The uber-strong West Australian team defeated South Australia, but had fallen just short of their required number of matches. The NSW team could breathe again.

Without doubt, this was a victory for camaraderie, hard work and determination, which stretched back through months of training, practice and organisation.

Not one individual can be singled out, in what can only be described as a brilliant and consistent performance by every one of our NSW players.

A detailed match report can be seen later in the magazine.

David Hanbidge,
ISS Team Member



The photo below shows the sun coming out after waves of driving rain, and then NSW etched out a victory against host SA under the arc of a huge rainbow. The Team was banking on a pot of gold for NSW at the end of the rainbow.

(L:R) Mark Scruton (Reserve), Jamie Gumbrell, Malcolm Powys, Chris Williamson, Kate McLoughlin, Kevin McGlynn, Alison Sharpe, David Hanbidge and Pauline Markwell (Reserve)

If your Club would like to share its interesting stories, and articles and photos from tournaments, please email newsletter@croquet-nsw.org for publishing.

Croquet NSW acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands of NSW on which we meet and enjoy croquet. We pay our respects to elders past and present and emerging

BOARD MEMBERS

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FROM THE BOARD

A hearty congratulations to the successful NSW Golf Croquet State team, which has brought the Interstate Shield to NSW for the first time since 2011! Winning the Eire Cup (National Association Croquet trophy) and the Interstate Shield (National Golf Croquet trophy) in the same year is a tribute to the high level of competitive play in the State, to successful selections by the AC and GC Selection Committees, and to good coaching and team captaincy! Well done to all, and congratulations to Jamie Gumbrell, winner of the National GC Women's Singles. Thank you to Clubs who have filled out the Membership Survey: we have 47 responses so far, which is a great result from our 68 Clubs. I will present the results at the Discussion Forum following the AGM.

As we approach the AGM on Saturday October 22, and prepare the Annual Report, I want to acknowledge the valuable work done by all our officers and Committees. We are on the lookout for volunteers in the area of GC Refereeing and Coaching particularly.

A Plan of Management process is underway for Mackey Park, the home of CNSW HQ and Cooks River Croquet Club in Tempe. CNSW will be preparing a submission. The Inner West Council is conducting a survey and inviting comment on its website by users of this park. We encourage croquet players who have used the Tempe lawns to contribute to this survey on the Inner West Council website. <https://yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/planning-mackey-park-marrickville>

The Board has approved changes to referee payments. For Pennants events Clubs who are not able to supply a referee will be asked to pay travel costs for referees that need to travel more than 30kms. For Clubs hosting CNSW events, the cost of bringing referees to attend should be met from the fees payable to the club, up to a maximum of 15% of entry fees. We encourage Clubs to train referees to ensure we can have local referees in attendance as much as possible.

The Board agreed to host the Australian Ricochet Championships at Tempe, 15-19 April 2023. The Tournaments Committee is working on the draft Tournament schedule for 2023, so Clubs are invited to consider events they may like to host, and to contact tournaments@croquet-nsw.org.

At the Interstate Shield in Adelaide in September, the ACA held a Discussion Forum as well as a National Coaching Conference. The Discussion Forum considered topics including: the challenge of finding volunteers for croquet Boards and Clubs across the nation, Gender Policy for tournaments, and building the profile of croquet. The conversations were thoughtful and considered, with more information being sought for most topics. The Coaching Conference focussed on schools and U21 coaching as well as the example of Bowls diversifying and building membership.

I look forward to seeing you via video at the AGM, 22 October, 10.00 am.

Kate McLoughlin

Chair, Croquet NSW

Croquet New South Wales (CNSW) is seeking Expressions of Interest for the role of:

State Coordinator Refereeing Gateball

They will be an accredited Gateball Referee, and will ensure there are referees for all CNSW Gateball Tournaments and Events.

They will organise courses to train and update Gateball referees and ensure referees are updated with rule changes. They shall have a good understanding of the rules and the game.

They will liaise with the national referee coordinator for Gateball, and with the State Gateball Coordinator.

Expressions of Interest to be sent to secretary@croquet-nsw.org or for more information contact Gateball co-ordinator Judy Tier jtier@netspeed.com.au

NEWS FROM SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS CROQUET CLUB

On Sunday 2 October, SHCC hosted a 'Celebrate Daylight Savings' evening at our lovely lawns in Exeter, offering an opportunity for 12 people to be introduced to the game. After a few minutes' tuition in small groups, we divided up and played some fun games, with novices and 'old hands' pitting their wits and skills against one another. 'Whoops' of excitement and giggles could be heard all over the courts. As the shadows

lengthened a couple of small 'bevvies' were enjoyed, together with some delicious nibbles provided by committee members and even some of the guests. We are optimistic that the enthusiasm generated during the evening will translate into some new players joining our ranks of regulars. The Club hopes to host other similar events during the summer months. Members of other clubs visiting the Southern Highlands are most welcome to get in touch with us to enjoy a game on our lawns - you'll be most welcome. Call/text Anna Saminsky on 0410 762 922 or send a message on FB to arrange times.



Vale Andrew John Davies

15.8.1952 - 2.9.2022



The Canberra Croquet Club has lost a very valuable and well respected member. Andrew was a quiet contributor to volunteer tasks in the Club with his management of Lawn Hires and the rolling roster. He died playing a sport he loved – Gateball Doubles in the 2022 CNSW Gateball Tournament in Albury. Winners of the event, Glen & Kristina Whitehead from CCC, dedicated the trophy to Andrew who suffered a heart attack during the first round of the Doubles on Friday morning 2 September and died in the Albury Hospital. In accepting the Clare & Ken Poole Teams trophy, Phillip Brown, Captain of Kew, reminded everyone to treasure the friends they have made playing Gateball. Andrew and Margo joined the Club in 2013 and quickly became active players of Golf Croquet and Gateball. Andrew recently shared the win of the GC Tony Hall Cup – a high/low Club event and he was a Division 1 GC Pennants player. In recent years Andrew and Margo frequently played at Queensland clubs and in Tournaments

while visiting children and grandchildren in Brisbane. Andrew was a great family man, a fun-loving Dad who was always there for everyone and loved his three children – Josh, Sam and Erin and his grandchildren. We will miss Andrew at Canberra Croquet Club.

WINNERS ARE GRINNERS

NSW STATE GATEBALL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP, 2-3 September, Twin City Croquet Club (Albury)

Due to a wet and unplayable venue, play for the Doubles and Team Championships was organised on a local Council soccer field and on grass tennis courts at Wodonga Tennis Centre.

Twenty-five pairs of Doubles representing South Australia, NSW, Victoria, the ACT and Queensland competed with the ACT pairing of Glen and Kristina Whitehead, winning over Steve and Cheryl Kele from Rockhampton. (right: Glen and Kristina Whitehead)



TEMPE OPEN (AC) SUPER ADVANCED 4-5 September

The super advanced game for Association Croquet involves a couple of additions to the existing Association rules. Hoop four becomes one of the hoops where a lift is given if it is run. The others are 1 and 4 back. A player receives a contact if the opponent runs two lift hoops in a turn. A player receives a free placement if the opponent runs three lift hoops. A select field of 4 players contested this year's event in a double round robin. Robert Elliott (Cammeray CC) was undefeated winning 6 games with net hoops of +89. Alan Walsh (Cammeray CC) finished second with 3 wins, Ted Woodley (Chatswood CC) finished third with 2 wins and Don Wright (Cooks River CC) had 1 win.

NSW STATE GATEBALL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP, 3-5 September, Twin City Croquet Club (Albury)

Congratulations to the winners Kew (below left) who were awarded the Ken and Clare Poole trophy, and to the runners up, the Macs from Toronto. The Macs team members below right (L:R) Ruth Mulvaney (Toronto), Greg Deakin (Mosman), Helen Chalmers (Toronto), Elizabeth Dolphin (Epping) Sandra Townley (Eastwood) & Marion Davies (Toronto)



AC SILVER BROOCH, 6-7 September, Tempe (handicaps 7-10)

Only 4 players contested this year's event played as a double round robin. Peter Gordon won the event winning 5 out of 6 games with a net hoop score of +43. Rob Wright was runner up with 4 wins and a net hoop of +20. The win continued Peter Gordon's extraordinary run this year winning the AC Bronze Singles, the AC Silver Singles and the GC Silver Brooch Singles.

(Photo L:R) David Stanton (TM) and Peter Gordon (Nelson Bay)

PORT MACQUARIE GOLF CROQUET CARNIVAL, 7-9 September

Port Macquarie GC Carnival winners



Peter Waters



Wendy Forbes



Rae Uptin



Robyn Clarke

It was so good to be able to hold a carnival again after a three-year break because of the Covid pandemic. The 24 players came from Coutts Crossing in the north, to Nowra in the south. There were 4 graded blocks of 6 players who played a double round robin, one level and one handicap. Only the Port Macquarie 2 players had played the Advantage GC option before. I really like it – after working out the starting scores the play is straight forward, with no thought about when to use extra strokes. The winners were: Block A Peter Waters (Urunga CC) and runner-up Ron May (EDSACC); Block B Wendy Forbes (Urunga CC) and runner-up Catherine Waters (Urunga CC); Block C Rae Uptin (Nelson Bay CC) and runner-up Gregory Carter (Coutts Crossing CC); and Block D Robyn Clarke (Port Macquarie CC) and runner-up Lyn Dalziel (Sawtell CC).

Jill Drury was an excellent Carnival Secretary. She and Kay Craig were industrious recorders, scorers and handicap card checkers – they also entered the results on croquetscores.com. Trevor Thornton was the Tournament Referee. With few qualified referees, we were grateful to so many of the players who were willing to be scorers/time-keepers. With rolling starts, the 120 games proceeded very

smoothly over the 3 days. The court surface was not good. With so much rain and a very high water-table the greenkeeper has struggled to try to improve the greens. Our members brought in delicious cakes, slices, cheese and biscuits and chocolate coated strawberries each day. They also donated to the daily raffle prizes. The carnival dinner on Wednesday night was held at The Westport Club. The Presentation dinner, organized by Jill Drury and Sue Moss, was delicious. Jenny Edmunds, the Community and Sports Manager from The Westport Club, presented the prizes. We intend to hold a similar carnival next year.

Bridget Earle (Carnival Manager)

AUSTRALIAN GOLD/SILVER GC MEDALS, 7-9 September, Adelaide

The players contesting this event were: Jamie Gumbrell (NSW), Stephen Forster (VIC), Brett McHardy (WA), Greg Bury (QLD), Phil Roach (TAS) and Barry Haydon (SA). The block was a round robin best of three games, and at the end of the block round Brett McHardy and Barry Haydon progressed to the best of three final. Brett McHardy proved too strong in the final, winning both games 7/4 and 7/6. Congratulations to Brett on winning the Gold medal while Barry took home the Silver medal.

(L:R) Brett McHardy (Gold) and Barry Haydon (Silver)



GC DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS, Gloucester, 11 September



It's was a busy time for croquet on the Mid North Coast with our AC, GC and ricochet Championships occurring over an 8 day period. It was a perfect day at Gloucester – a beautiful setting at the foot of the Barrington Tops - a sunny day with no wind. The Gloucester Club members are always so hospitable and none of us could resist all the sweet and savoury cakes and slices. Bev Murray, the MNCCC President, organised the day which ran very smoothly. This is a team's event with both singles and doubles round robins being held in the three divisions.

The winners were: Division 1 Forster (Peter Pittard, Andrew Bissex), Division 2 Taree (Tim Diment, Chris Larkin) and Division 3 Gloucester (Bev Fagan, Elaine Leech, Mae Bobsien). Thank you Gloucester for a great day!

CNSW AC SELECTOR'S TOURNAMENT, 10-11 September, Tempe

Congratulations to Barbara McDonald for her win in the CNSW AC Selector's event. Barbara was undefeated, winning 5 from 5 games. John Bartrop was runner up with 3 wins.

Barbara will now go on to represent CNSW in the upcoming ACA AC Bronze medal.

AUSTRALIAN GC WOMENS SINGLES, 10-13 September, Adelaide

Forty-nine players from around Australia contested this year's Australian GC Women's Singles. NSW had 3 players in the final 8, and Canberra had 2, QLD, SA and VIC each had one. In the quarter finals: Jamie Gumbrell defeated Alison Sharpe 7/4 5/7 7/5; Kate McLoughlin defeated Mary McMahon 3/7 7/4 7/2; Liz Montague defeated Kate Logan 4/7 7/4 7/5; and Elaine Coverdale defeated Pauline Markwell 7/3 7/3.

The semi-finals came down to two Canberra players, one NSW and one VIC. In an all-Canberra semi-final, Jamie Gumbrell proved too steady for Kate McLoughlin, winning 7/3 7/5. In the other semi-final, Elaine Coverdale was on fire, defeating Liz Montague, 7/6 7/4.

The final started with Elaine Cloverdale winning the first game 7/5, then Jamie really got in the groove, winning the next two games and the championship, 7/3 7/1.

Jill Sullivan (NSW) won the Plate, defeating Chris Eiffert (VIC) 7/5; Claire Keating (VIC) won the Y, defeating Helen Gammon (VIC) 5/7 7/5 7/4; and Jenee Molyneux (QLD) won the W, defeating Gerda Lambeck (NSW) 7/4 7/5.

Congratulations to Jamie and all the other players for some terrific games of croquet. You should be proud of your efforts. Well done to all the volunteers who made this tournament such a success.



Jamie Gumbrell (NSW)

AUSTRALIAN MENS GC SINGLES, 10-13 September, Adelaide

Forty-eight players from all States of Australia contested this year's Australian GC Men's Singles. The block winners were: Block 1 – Gary Phipps 9 wins 2 losses; Block 2 – Bob Martin 10 wins 1 losses; Block 3 – Marty Clarke 10 wins 1 losses; and Block 4 – David Hanbidge 9 wins 2 losses.

In the quarter finals: Gary Phipps defeated Owen Dickinson 7/2 7/6; Barry Jennings defeated Bob Martin 7/5 7/5; Ross Rillie defeated Richard Hingst 5/7 7/4 7/5; and Marty Clarke defeated Kevin McGlynn 7/4 6/7 7/4.

The semi-finals were classic Golf Croquet finals, all going to the third game: Gary Phipps defeated Barry Jennings 7/2 5/7 7/3 and Ross Rillie defeated Marty Clarke 7/5 4/7 7/3. The final was a bit one-sided with Gary Phipps defeating Ross Rillie 7/4 7/3 making it a double for Gary, who recently won the Australian Open Golf championship in Cairnlea, Victoria. Gordon Giles won the Plate, defeating Dennis Green in an all-Queensland final 7/4. David Hanbidge won the Y, defeating Stephen Forster 7/4 4/7 7/4.

Many thanks to all the volunteers/referees who gave up their time to assist and make the tournament a great success.



Gary Phipps (W.A.)

Ricochet News

The inaugural AUSTRALIAN OPEN RICOCHET CHAMPIONSHIPS Singles and Doubles will be held 15-19 April 2023 at Tempe.

The following links give a broad understanding of how to play Ricochet and some of the skills needed to make breaks.

<https://youtu.be/iU1nuG740y4>

https://youtu.be/pdD2do9_DS4

Many thanks to Keith Harvey from Toronto Croquet Club for producing the videos.

Ray Chapman

National Ricochet Co-ordinator

Ricochet Championships, 13 September, Taree

The Mid North Coast Croquet Council's Ricochet Championships were played in great weather and were lots of fun. Hopefully more and more players will engage in this game. It is different to Golf Croquet but enhances the skills required for both formats. A big thanks must go to Jan Sage for refereeing all day as well as organising the morning tea. Also a big thanks to Janine Crellin for refereeing. These events do not happen without our volunteers.



The winners (left to right): Division 1 Barb McTiernan; Division 2 Peter Pittard; and Division 3 Aileen Matlawski.

2022 INTERSTATE SHIELD (ISS) 14-18 September, Adelaide



(L:R) Pauline Markwell (Reserve), Peter Freer, Gerda Lambeck, Jamie Gumbrell, Malcolm Powys, Jill Sullivan, Alison Sharp, Kevin McGlynn, Kate McLoughlin, David Hanbidge, Liz Montague (Reserve), Chris Williamson (not present), Mark Scruton, Reserve)

The Croquet NSW Golf Croquet Selectors Committee (GCSC) chose the NSW State Team to compete in the Interstate Shield for Golf Croquet. The event had been cancelled for the last 2 years so the Team was really looking forward to competing. The Team includes very experienced members as well as first-time members, making it a team with a blend of enthusiasm, depth, and experience.

A NSW Report from the sidelines ...

Day 1 saw us take on SA at home and intending to do well. The mixed doubles were all split. The first set of singles 2 match wins each as a very tight contest continued. The reverse singles saw us win 4 matches to 1, giving us a 6-3 win.

Day 2 saw us take on Queensland. On day 1 QLD lost 12-0 to WA and were very keen and intent not to lose again. The mixed doubles resulted in one match win each, 2 split, showing QLD's determination. The first singles saw us edge ahead, 3 matched to 2. The reverse singles saw us draw ahead with 4 match wins to 1. Players from both sides fighting to even a match where they lost the first game. We won 8-4. **Day 3** we were against WA who were looking strong. The mixed doubles saw WA jump out to a 2-0 match lead. The first singles resulted in 2 matches all, with strong comebacks on both sides. The reverse singles were a battle of the titans with us winning 1 match to 0, so WA only just took the Test: 4 matches to 3: we were now 1 Test down. The most notable incident was Brett McHardy hitting a ball onto the edge of the court, up and over the neighbours 6-foot-high fence into a pool which halted play for some time until the ball could be retrieved. Also, the heavens opened in Adelaide to provide pooling water on all courts. Great work by the groundstaff ensured play got under way about 1 hour later, and earlier than expected. **Day 4** we were against Tasmania. The TAS mixed doubles had given WA a hard time, winning 2 matches to 1, and we were very wary. The mixed doubles saw us get off to a great start, winning 2 matches to 0. The first singles saw us increase their lead by 4 matches to 0. The reverse singles went to us by 3 matches to 1, giving us a healthy 9-2 win.

So, the overall situation at the end of Day 4 saw 3 States on 3 Test match wins, and 1 loss each: SA, WA and us after the Victorians handed them an 8-4 loss leaving them only 2 match wins ahead of us. The Victorians have won 9 of the last 10 ISS competitions but perhaps weren't in the same form this year. It did however set up a very interesting last day. If SA beat WA and Victoria beat us, SA would win. Otherwise, WA would win if they beat SA and maintain their 2-match win lead over us, with us beating the Victorians of course. **Day 5** we were against Victoria. After the mixed doubles, we were up 1-0 on matches. Not a great start, but not a bad one. The first singles saw us win 5 of the singles, match splitting the rest. The reverse singles gave us 3 match wins to one from Victoria. We won the first 5 games in the reverse singles, giving them an excellent chance of doing very well, but the Victorians fought hard for everything. Match result 8-1 to us. The results from our games against Victoria were posted as soon as the first match finished. The WA vs SA games were only posted when both games were finished. This led to quite a long wait while matches were completed then posted. With 3 games to go, WA needed to win all 3 to win. If WA won 2 and split the third, we would win on net hoops. The rules stated that the first criterion is Test Match wins, then net matches (which would be even), then net games (also even), then net hoops giving us the win. The South Australians won one of those 3 matches and split one, meaning WAs win 8-4 over SA wasn't good enough to overcome our wonderful 8-1 win over Victoria. This saw us win the 2022 ISS for the first time since 2011. Our team's camaraderie was fantastic enabling disappointments along the way to be put aside for the next game or match. This was undoubtedly key to us winning the ISS this year.

Mark Scruton, ISS Team (Reserve)

MULTI MALLET CROSS TRAINING IS THE WAY TO GO

A recent analysis of data from Queensland revealed that 80% of that state's Gateballers also play another code. The South Australian Coordinator believes that in his state that figure is 100% and it is surmised that this is the case in all the states where Gateball numbers are smaller. So what is it that makes so many of us multi mallet enthusiasts?

Some examples of well and lesser known players have agreed to have their mallet sports stories published. They illustrate the pleasure and benefits gained from playing a range of mallet sports. We can even extol the virtue of playing several games as *cross training* - a proven approach to improving performance in someone's main game!

In 2017, Julia Tai did not play mallets sports. Her family from Taiwan were planning to visit Australia and told her they wanted to play Gateball. As a result, Julia joined Southport Croquet Club. Since then, Gateball has become a family affair and Julia, her father and son Ethan all played together in the 2019 Australian Gateball Championships in Melbourne. The family featured in a radio interview for the [ABC's 'Sporty' program](#) along with other Gateball families.



Since that time, Julia and son Ethan have ventured into other codes too. In 2018, Julia started playing Ricochet and has participated in pennants events and Division 4 competition. In 2019, she played Golf and has played in Division 3 competitions. By 2020, she was ready to try Association and played in a Bribie Island Competition, as well as winning the Southport Shield for Association.

Linda Davies of Bribie Island came to Gateball as the fourth code in her repertoire of mallets sports. Linda began playing Golf at Bribie Island in 2008 and has made the Queensland State team on three occasions. She has made an appearance at the Worlds in New Zealand. Linda also plays Ricochet and Association. For 7 years she was the State and National Coordinator for Ricochet. She started playing Gateball about 6 years ago and was recently a member of the winning team in the 2022 Queensland State Championships. Linda's commitment to all 4 codes of mallet sports is demonstrated not only by having been Qld State Coaching Coordinator and a coach and trainer for all codes but also being a referee. She is already qualified as a referee for Golf, Ricochet and Association and is currently working at her Gateball qualification. What an amazing commitment to the full array of mallet sports!

Karen McGee of South Australia tells us she has been playing Golf Croquet since 2012. This year saw her selection for South Australia in the Interstate Shield for the 8th time. During that period she has had a few state coaches with lots of tips and advice, but one memorable comment was, "What will I be doing this year to improve from last year?". That led her to Gateball in 2019, which focusses her strokes for roqueting and gives her lots of fun. Gateball certainly keeps her mind in tune, having to make quick decisions to lead to success. Karen believes that the short games keep a player on their toes and involved.

She took up Association Croquet as something else to help her Golf Croquet improve. Covid was instrumental in this, in that she couldn't travel for the Interstate Shield and was looking for something else. Luckily, she has her own personal coach in this and has had some success. She tells us the long games do concern her, but alternate stroke handicap doubles and playing 14 point games is a way for her to overcome this as a beginner. She enjoys playing 3 codes.

Peter Freer discovered Croquet in 1981, when his work team hired a lawn at the Canberra Croquet Club, and he has been

a member ever since – now 41 years and a Life Member there. After retiring from work in October 2008, he took up serious competition; playing Association, Golf Croquet, Ricochet and Gateball. Peter particularly enjoys the team aspects of Gateball, and plays in Doubles, Triples & Teams at regional, State & Australian level - plus a World Gateball Championship in Brazil, as part of a Canberra team. Peter stresses that his interest in GB has been fuelled by the strong and enthusiastic GB base at Canberra CC, led by Glen & Kristina Whitehead and NSW GB Coordinator Judy Tier. Peter is a keen referee and coach in all 4 codes, and notes the crossover in terms of stroking balls, running hoops/gates and tactical/positional play. Peter is married to Kate McLoughlin and they have two (adult) daughters, and a very busy one year-old grandson.

David Pryor of Victoria is the newest of our multi racket sports players. He tells us that the very first day he arrived for a hit at Kew Croquet Club, he was greeted by a very friendly group, who invited him to join them in a game called Gateball. He now regularly plays Gateball as well as Association and Golf Croquet - all are played both competitively and socially. He says that each code complements the others; at the same time, skills learnt in one code are also helpful across all.

He has found experienced players of all codes to be remarkably supportive, offering coaching and encouraging him to compete, even when his skills development had a very long way to go! Of Kew's two courts, one is line marked for Gateball (in blue) as well as Croquet, and timeslots across the week have been amicably allocated to the various codes.

Ruth Bridger of Sydney's Strathfield Club says that, when she joined Strathfield Croquet Club in 2006, she learnt just one code - AC, the only one on offer for years. She is well placed to examine the benefits gained, not just personally, but also for her club, when they agreed to new codes being included at Strathfield CC. The first two, GC and RC, were in 2010. This change meant the club retained her as a member. She had begun to consider leaving a dying club. The changes saved her club, important for her, as she lives nearby. Other personal benefits are: the game variety keeps her interested, and enables her to meet and play with so many club members, who she might not normally see, if they play only one game code. It certainly helps maximise club cohesion. Furthermore, it gives her the choice and flexibility when she needs to change her playing session times/days, as all game codes get good coverage. Like most at her club she is a senior, some of whom have hidden disabilities, with symptoms that change in severity. It is important to her to have access to games which both minimise risks to her health and provide: games of shorter or longer game duration; use of lighter equipment; longer or shorter 'sitting times'; or games with less or more walking. She believes this diversity is good for her body and mind. She wants longevity in the sport. Her needs are not unique in this regard, nor are her club's needs. She believes this holistic approach has worked better for all.

As a coach, she finds that it has worked to trust that new players can cope and thrive, when they learn a couple of games quite early. Newer players now take it as normal to play other game codes. The club finds itself in a better position to coach existing players, some who have shown interest, to explore how their skills will transfer to AC, and discover what new skills they can add to their repertoire.

She states enthusiastically that, "It is a great time to join our sport, especially now that we will receive support and resources provided by the newly formed ACA Croquet Academy. As a coach across these four codes, this development matters to her. For those who just want to play one game code, that is not problematic, as the club has a much larger membership and, financially, is in a better position to support all views. Strathfield needs that mix to survive and thrive. It is wonderful to experience all games now being valued.

The ACA is the umbrella organisation for all our racket sports. The sum is clearly greater than the parts. Any game, isolated from the others, loses.

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Gateball Australia name is the ACA's registered trading name for its Gateball operations

WANTED - CLUBS TO HOST CNSW EVENTS 2023

(NB. to ensure sufficient entries, it would be preferred if the AC events were hosted in or around the Sydney Metro Area)

Please email your Club's interest to host an event to: tournaments@croquet-nsw.org

TOURNAMENTS COMING UP:

Orange City (GC) Spring Carnival, 14-17 October, **Orange** (entries close 7 October)

CNSW (AC) Open Doubles, 15-16 October, **Tempe** (entries close 7 October)

CNSW (RC) Division 3 Open Doubles, 17-18 October, **Maitland** (entries close 7 October)

CNSW (RC) Division 3 Open Singles, 19-21 October, **Maitland** (entries close 7 October)

EDSACC (GC) Doubles Carnival – 24-25 October, **Bateau Bay** (entries close 12 October)

Sawtell 4 Days of AC - 27-30 October, **Sawtell** (entries close 17 October)

Bathurst Annual (AC) Carnival, 31 October to 4 November, **Bathurst** (entries close 9 October)

Jamberoo GC Spring Carnival, 31 October to 3 November, **Jamberoo** (entries close 16 October)

CNSW (AC) Open Singles championship, 4-7 November, **Tempe** (entries close 28 October)

CNSW 9+ AC handicap, 7-9 November, **Coutts Crossing** (entries close 28 October)

Mosman Prize (GC), 4-6 November, **Mosman** (entries close 8 October)

Maitland (GC) Under Lights, 12 November, **Maitland** (entries close 4 November)

(GC) Christmas Bush Bash, 19-21 November, **Nelson Bay** (entries close 21 October)

Check out the [Events](#) tab on the CNSW website.