

# NEWSLETTER

December 2022



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*Croquet NSW Board of Directors wishes all clubs and players a merry Christmas. We know lots of Clubs are enjoying end of year celebrations. We celebrate the resilience and the capacity of clubs to enjoy great social events, as well as the love of our sport of croquet! We look forward to a bigger and brighter 2023!*  
*From the Board*



## GOLDEN MALLET AWARD

The closing date for the Golden Mallet Award has been extended to **12 January**. The Award is an opportunity to recognise Croquet NSW members, including officials, players at all levels and Club volunteers, who have made an outstanding contribution to croquet.

The panel to select the winners usually includes last year's winner(s) plus one or two other club members from a variety of clubs.

The trophy is crafted every year by Cliff Elliott from South West Rocks who puts a little individual flair into each trophy.

## R•E•F•E•R•E•E N•E•W•S

The following GC referees are retiring:

Hazel Gibbons EDSACC

Patsy McCaskie EDSACC

David Gibson Manly

Norma McLennan Young

Peter Taylor Port Macquarie

Ron Humpherson Mosman

Many thanks to each of them for their years of service as GC Referees. They will each be presented with a GC Refereeing Service Award.

Also, Peter Gordon has been appointed as a GC Tutor Referee for the Hunter Region. Congratulations.

Lorraine Hatfield, State Director of Refereeing (GC)



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

Chair: Kate McLoughlin  
Deputy Chair: Simon Cook  
Treasurer: Steve Miles  
Secretary: Rik Mills  
Board Member: Ray Chapman  
Board Member: Fidy Westgarth  
Newsletter: Liz Friend  
[newsletter@croquet-nsw.org](mailto:newsletter@croquet-nsw.org)

Website: <https://croquet-nsw.org>  
[Croquet NSW Facebook page](#)



## FROM THE BOARD

The CNSW Board welcomes Fidy Westgarth as its seventh Board Member. Fidy is a member of the Mosman Croquet Club where she was a past secretary. Fidy joins Simon Cook (Coutts Crossing) as the two new Board members for 2022-23. Both will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Board.

Two new clubs, Griffith (NSW) and Lake Illawarra, have been approved as CNSW affiliated clubs. The Board and all our clubs welcome our two new member clubs. The CNSW Board has accepted the recommendation from the Golf Croquet Selectors that Ethan Gumbrell represent CNSW in the upcoming under 21 Australian Gold Medal playoff in Queensland in 2023.

The CNSW Board members have been testing an updated ACA member management system with the view of moving from our existing website to the new platform mid-2023. Clubs will be able to access membership data as normal and will also be able to set up their own individual web page if required. The 2023 CNSW events calendar is now available for viewing on our website. Clubs are encouraged to apply for hosting of various CNSW events as listed in the events calendar and to submit details of any club event for inclusion in the club events page on the CNSW website.

A list of events requiring hosting is attached to this newsletter. Both submissions should be emailed to [Tournaments@croquet-nsw.org](mailto:Tournaments@croquet-nsw.org)

The 2022 Golden Mallet Award nominations forms are with all club secretaries. The Award is an opportunity to recognise CNSW members including officials, players and club volunteers for their contribution to croquet during 2022. **The closing date for nominations has been extended to 12 January.**

With Christmas and the end of the year fast approaching, the CNSW Board would like to thank all the wonderful, referees, coaches, committee members and all those volunteers within all our clubs for their terrific work during the year. Without your help there would be no croquet for all of us to enjoy, well done. To all our 3,000+ club members, have a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year - stay safe and well.

Ray Chapman, Director, CNSW

## GC PENNANTS IN 2023

The 2022 GC Pennants competitions attracted a record number of entries across all Divisions. Will this record be beaten in 2023???

Information flyers are now attached to the Pennants entries in the [Events](#) Schedule.

### Divisions 2 and 3

Entries close on 1 March for both these Divisions. The Division 3 Pennants Finals will be hosted by Toronto Croquet Club 22-25 May.

The Finals for Division 2 are scheduled to be held 5-8 June. We are looking for a hosting offer for this event in 2023 from a club in the Southern NSW/ACT region.

### Division 1

In 2023, to avoid a rush towards the end of the year, we are trialling a longer period of Zone play for this competition. For Division 1, entries close on 1 July and the Finals are scheduled for 13-15 November. We are looking for a Sydney Metro club to host the Finals for the Division 1 competition in 2023.

Lorraine Hatfield

GC Pennants Manager

## STATE TEAM SQUAD (GC) FOR 2023

The following 20 players have accepted a place in the Squad:

Pamela Barnwell, Georgina Carnegie, Jamie Gumbrell, Gerda Lambeck, Kate McLoughlin, Pauline Markwell, Liz Montague, Ruth Mulvaney, Sue Sellers, Jill Sullivan, Derek Bull, Stephen Burns, Ray Chapman, Richard Christian, Gareth Denyer, Peter Freer, Kevin McGlynn, Malcolm Powys, David Scott and Mark Scruton.

Peter Montague (Chair) GC Selection Committee

## ASSOCIATION CROQUET SELECTION COMMITTEE

The CNSW ACSC has selected the following team for the 2023 Eire Cup to be played in Melbourne in March 2023:

Men: Peter Landrebe (Captain), Trevor Bassett, Tim Murphy and Stephen Richards. Travelling Reserve/Team Manager: Stephen Pearce.

Women: Alison Sharpe (Captain), Joanne Brown, Rosie Landrebe and Kerri-Ann Organ. Travelling Reserve/Team Manager: Diane Scott. 2nd non-travelling reserve: Sue Eldridge-Smith.

Jim Nicholls was selected, however has decided to withdraw.

Stephen Richards (Chair) AC Selection Committee

## 2022 AC WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP TIER 1: THE MACROBERTSON SHIELD 12-28 November, Cairnlea, Victoria



The Australian Team (L:R)

Dwayne McCormick, Alison Sharpe, Ian Dumergue, Malcom Fletcher, Ed Wilson, Callum Hyland, Robert Fletcher (Steven Forster not pictured)

England have won the MacRobertson Shield from Australia. Australia and England were 2 tests each coming into the final contest: England vs Australia. The Croquet World Team Championships are a gruelling three-week test of stamina and skill and this series has been extremely challenging. The teams were all very evenly matched and the lawn conditions difficult with tight hoops and high winds effecting play. This led to fewer peeling turns than we might have expected, but some interesting and interactive matches. Australia had 2 very good results against New Zealand and then the US. However in the final test, they were not able to counter the English attack. Going into the final day the

English team were in a commanding position, leading Australia 10 to 5 and needing just one match win to take home the trophy. However, it's never easy to cross the line, and memories from 2010 will have kept tension high, it took the then British team to the final game to win. However, Mark Avery the most experienced of the English players, and playing in his fifth test series, managed to beat Australia's Edward Wilson in 2 straight games, to seal the win.

Commiserations to the Australian team, and congratulations and well played to all the England Team. New Zealand beat the USA 8:5 to come third. The event was filmed every day by ['MySportLive'](#) and the videos can be watched in full on their site. To see highlights go to the WCF YouTube Channel and select the [2022 MacRobertson Shield Playlist](#). For background and articles, visit the [The MacRobertson Shield Facebook page](#) For a blog, schedules and team details, visit the [The MacRobertson Shield Website](#) and Full Results can be found on [CroquetScores](#)





## ADVOCATING FOR ASSOCIATION CROQUET

Are you passionate about Association Croquet? Would you like to see more Association Croquet played in NSW? Are you interested in becoming an AC Advocate? Croquet NSW is seeking expressions of interest from those who have ideas and enthusiasm to promote AC among NSW croquet players. This could be in targeted coaching programs, a diversity of competitions, identifying some champions and role models ...

The AC Advocate would be a member of a CNSW Club and be experienced in the game of Association Croquet. Skills and accreditation in the areas of AC coaching and refereeing would be beneficial.

The goal of the AC Advocate is to

1. To develop a plan to increase numbers of AC players,
2. promote AC to clubs around NSW
3. identify AC coaching needs in liaison with the State Coaching co-ordinator
4. develop resources for Clubs to use to increase the take up of AC
5. promote and evaluate AC competition to meet player demand in liaison with Tournaments Committee
6. advise the Board in relation to the policies, regulations and playing of AC in NSW.

If you are interested in this role, please contact the Secretary Croquet NSW [secretary@croquetnsw.org](mailto:secretary@croquetnsw.org) before 30 January 2023.

## Learn to Play Golf Croquet - September 2014 – September 2022 – by Judy Tier

It was in early 2014 on a visit to the Nowra Croquet Club that I was told about how this Club conducted U3A (university of the third age) classes to recruit new members. I had been playing this sport for a year, had taught adults for more than 20 years and also worked as a volunteer overseas assisting people achieve their goals. The Canberra Croquet Club needed new members and this became my goal.

I developed several strategies to ensure this. Firstly, to involve existing members to assist me and as years moved on to recruit former U3A participants which has allowed many to meet more Club members. Secondly, to share an afternoon tea of home-made slices over a social chat and getting to know each other. Thirdly, to allow all class members to set up a lawn for play and experience all the procedures they would face in their play at a Club social draw. Fourthly, to provide interesting and varied 'homework' in preparation for classes. And finally, to mentor all new members for a few weeks at social draws. So, on 8 September 2014 I rather nervously welcomed the first 8 registrations. Since that class I have conducted 13 classes with 152 participants and nearly 100 have joined Canberra Croquet Club. There is now a permanent waiting list for the course with graduates of the class constantly recruiting new members. It is a pleasure to coach U3A members - to watch their progress in learning the skills and gradually realising there is more to the game than hitting a ball. The ability to apply tactics to achieve a strategy and consider the possibilities of outcomes at least three strokes ahead. Don't let anyone convince you it's a game for the old. The Australian World champion gained this title at age 20! Judy Tier, Canberra Croquet Club



Above, class members listening attentively to a session on rules & 'behaviour' on 12 October 2022 and on the right, class members watching a demonstration of a potential fault during a session on rules by Adrienne, qualified referee with CCC member James, on the right

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

## WINNERS ARE GRINNERS

### DIVISION 1 GC PENNANTS, 16-17 November, Jamberoo

Three teams arrived at Jamberoo to do battle for the Division 1 Pennants this year: Canberra, Newcastle NP and Royal Sydney. Royal Sydney defeated Newcastle NP, 2 matches to 1, and Canberra defeated Newcastle NP, 3 matches to 0. In the match to decide the winner, Royal Sydney upset the favourites Canberra (who were last year's winners), winning 2 matches to 1. Peter Freer (Canberra) winning 7/3 6/7 7/5 against Richard Christian (Royal Sydney).

Pauline Markwell (Royal Sydney) winning 7/5 7/6 against Kevin McGlynn (Canberra).

Rob M Elliott and Hunter McPherson (Royal Sydney) winning 6/5, 3/4 and 4/3 against Kate McLoughlin and Mark Scruton (Canberra).

It was a nail-biting finish to this year's Division 1 pennants with Royal Sydney holding their nerve in the close finish in the doubles and the second singles.



*Royal Sydney – the winners (L:R) Patrick Rundle (Captain), Hunter McPherson, Pauline Markwell, Rob Elliott and Richard Christian*

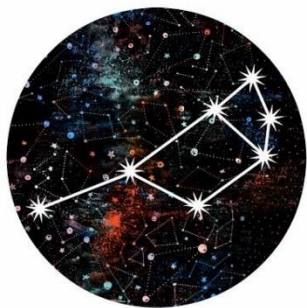
### CHRISTMAS BUSH BASH, 19-21 November, Nelson Bay

Nelson Bay Croquet Club hosted and organised its inaugural Christmas Bush Bash, a golf croquet doubles tournament which had to be cancelled last year due to COVID. 64 players from around NSW converged on Nelson Bay for the 3 days, with many extending their stay before or after the tournament. The 32 doubles pairs were seeded into 4 blocks of 8 teams each, with the top pairs in Block A. The tournament comprised a round-robin of level play followed by a round-robin of handicap play, meaning each doubles pair played 14 games over the 3 days. The games were 13-point contests with a time limit of 50 minutes. 215 games were played over the tournament (one pair had to withdraw after the first day due to illness – they were leading Block A at the time). Despite the high winds on Sunday and Monday, the tournament was completed on time with keenly contested games. In Block A, three pairs finished with 8 wins with the winners and runners-up decided on net hoops – former Australian representatives Ros & Ron Johnston (Sutherland/Cooks River) were 1<sup>st</sup> with Stephen Thornton & Michael Anear (Maitland) 2<sup>nd</sup>. In Block B, Bill Munns & Laurie Lawson (Toronto/Nelson Bay) were clear winners with 9 wins with Julie Thornton & David Smith (Maitland/Nelson Bay) runners-up on net hoops from 3 pairs with 8 wins. In Block C, three pairs finished with 9 wins with the winners and runners-up decided on net hoops – Liz & Phil McDonald (Toronto) were 1<sup>st</sup> with Jim Muxlow & Ann Barrett (Maitland) 2<sup>nd</sup>. In Block D, Judy & Hans Szubert (Toronto) were clear winners with 11 wins with Margaret Myers & Martin Wooster (Toronto/Mount Sugarloaf) runners-up on net hoops from 2 pairs with 9 wins.

With visiting players from as far away as Blue Mountains, Orange, Smithtown and Young as well as croquet clubs in Sydney, the local clubs from the Hunter region fared very well. In addition to the usual certificates and awards, the winners and runners-up received a fledgling Christmas Bush grown from seeds for trees around the courts.







*Seven sisters dreaming*

## MAKARA SEASON 2022

What is the Makara you may well ask! The Makara, first run in 1983, is a competition organised by a committee of "7 sister" clubs south of Sydney Harbour. Coogee, Holroyd, Hurstville, Strathfield and Marrickville are 6 of the founding clubs, and this year invited the new Cooks River Club to participate as the 7th club. The Makara was initially an AC tournament, GC was later added and in 2016 Ricochet was included, making the Makara the first competition in NSW to include all 3 croquet codes. This year the Makara again included all 3 codes, with a few through the "Makara Season" from August to November.

### Makara Association Handicap Singles

The Makara AC event was played at CRCC/Tempe from 6-8 September 2022. There were 8 players with handicaps ranging from 3.5 - 20. This number of entries was encouraging as AC had been declining in the Makara. Two blocks of 4 played a round robin. The winner of block A played the runner-up of block B, and the winner of block B played runner-up of block A. The same system applied to 3rd and 4th positions in each block. The two block winners played the final while 2 runners-up played for 3rd and 4th positions. There were some very close games with Don Wright (CRCC) winner, defeating Roberta Flint (Marrickville), in a very interesting and close final. There were some tense moments for Don as Roberta used her knowledge of bisques to her advantage. The more inexperienced players found using bisques quite challenging to start. By the end of the tournament, having watched and listened to advice from other players, they left with considerably more confidence, but more importantly, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



(L:R) Roberta Flint (Marrickville), Ron Humpherson (Mosman), Fiona Gale (Holroyd), Janene Luff (Killara), Joan Siggs (Holroyd), Alia Naughton (Killara), Don Wright (CRCC)

### Makara Golf Croquet Teams

The Golf Croquet teams event was designed to encourage maximum participation and promote newer player development. Teams of 4 played a round robin of tests of 10 games, 2 double and 4 singles. At the beginning of a test, the combined handicaps for the 4 players in the team had to be at least 28 with players ranked to determine game allocation. Given the number of teams entering, 2 blocks were needed. There were 3 teams from both Coogee and Marrickville, 2 from CRCC and 1 from each of the other Makara club,s meaning well over 60 players participated across the season. The handicap caps meant there was participation of players at all levels with many in their first ever tournament. Special mention here goes to Holroyd with most of their player first timers with great attitudes! Overall winners were Sutherland (K block) and CRCC (M block), Coogee Shells and Coogee Mermaids runners up respectively.



*Holroyd (at home) vs Coogee*



*Holroyd had a great cheer squad*



*Hurstville has the best backdrop!*



(Makara cont.)  
**Ricochet**



As in 2021, the RC event ran with a team of two players playing two singles games each. Games were 18 points of 1.5 hours. Six teams entered the event with 16 players participating in the teams.

There were two teams from Marrickville and one each from Coogee, Strathfield, Hurstville and Sutherland. Competition was tight with over 40% of games finishing with a difference of just 1-3 points. There were some peg outs (Hurstville the standout here) and some frustratingly low scores (no names here - blame the weather!).

The overall winners were the Marrickville Stormcasters (named for the hammer created by Loki, Norse God of mischief) with Hurstville runner-ups.

*(left) Marrickville Stormcasters (L:R) Gareth Denyer, Charles Britton & Roberta Flint*

**CNSW GC CHAMPION OF CLUB CHAMPIONS, 22-24 November, Tempe**

Only a small field of 5 this year, which is better than nil last year. The players were: David Woods (Sutherland), Stephen Burns (Coogee), Pauline Markwell (Royal Sydney), Margaret Sawers (Nowra), and Ted Woodley (Cooks River).

After a double round robin to determine the top two positions the results were: Ted Woodley 6 win 2 losses, Stephen Burns 5 wins 3 losses net hoops +9, David Woods 5 wins 3 losses net hoops +4, Pauline Markwell 3 wins 5 losses, and Margaret Sawers 1 win 7 losses. The final was between Ted Woodley and Stephen Burns with Ted been a bit too steady for Stephen, winning 7/5 7/5. Congratulations Ted Woodley. Hopefully next year we will see more players entering this event.

**JAMBEROO HANDICAP GC SPRING CARNIVAL, 31 October-3 November, Jamberoo**



Doubles results:

**GREEN BLOCK**

Winners: Malcolm Powys / David Knott

Runners-up: Sandra Howchin / John Siccardi

**BROWN BLOCK**

Winners: Georgia Knight / Barbara Coombs

Runners-up: Bob Davis / Marian van Zanen

Singles results:

**BLUE BLOCK**

Winner: Karen Tieck

Runner-up: Sandra Howchin

**RED BLOCK**

Winner Martin Liiv

Runner-up: Janelle Brown

**BLACK BLOCK**

Winner: Dianne Bonniticha

Runner-up: Stephen Catt

**YELLOW BLOCK**

Winner: Brett Grant

Runner-up: Judy Tonkin

### **ASSOCIATION CROQUET WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2023**

The organising committee of the WCF 2023 AC World Championship, due to be held next July in London, England, have created a dedicated website: [acworlds2023.com](https://acworlds2023.com)

As the event approaches this will include information about the players, the schedule and much more!

For official news items regarding the event, such as key dates, entries etc, please access the [WCF Event Page](#)

### **WANTED - CLUBS TO HOST CNSW EVENTS 2023 (see list attached to this newsletter)**

(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](mailto:tournaments@croquet-nsw.org).

### **TOURNAMENTS COMING UP:**

2023 Mosman Bash (Advanced AC) Handicap, 24-26 March. Entries close 9 March (flyer attached to this newsletter)

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