



CROQUET NSW Inc

ABN 95 174 213 987

Patron: His Excellency General The Honorable David Hurley AC DCS (Ret'd) Governor of New South Wales

CNSW Board Update October 2018

October already and it is timely for another update to members.

September passed by in a blur with CNSW hosting the ACA Gold medal for GC, the Australian Golf Croquet Men's and Women's Singles Championships and the Interstate Shield (ISS). A big thank you to the clubs who made their facilities available for these events and the Organising Committee. Events went off without any major problems as did the welcome BBQ, Civic Reception and presentation dinner. Thanks to the efforts of the Board, the CNSW Patron, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales, Patron of Croquet NSW, accompanied by Mrs Linda Hurley were at Maitland for the closing stages of the Women's Singles Finals, attended the Civic reception, AND stayed over to watch the opening games of the ISS. I noted that within 5 minutes of their arrival in Newcastle the Governor had his jacket off and a mallet in hand practicing strokes. He commented that he'd spent the previous evening thinking about the tactics of the game – a future croquet player!! We expect an invitation to an open day at Government House to demonstrate Croquet on the lawns there.

Also on behalf of all members of CNSW I'd like to congratulate John Levick from Newcastle National Park Club who was the winner of the ACA GC Gold Medal event. Also to Alison Sharpe (Killara) and Peter Landrebe (Camberay) who won the Women's & Men's Singles respectively and after coming 5th in 2017 the NSW ISS team played extremely well to finish 3rd this year being unlucky in losing some very close games. Next year the plan is step higher up the ladder.

In early October the Board had its first meeting since the AGM and it was great to have both Carol and Richard join us. It is the first time there has been a full complement of Directors on the Board in some time. At the meeting we progressed discussions around the changes required to the Constitution to align it with both what is expected of a State Sporting Organisation (SSO) and the model rules of the Office of Fair Trading as applicable to an SSO. It should be finalised for circulation shortly and will be accompanied by supporting information.

We have also engaged McLaughlin Sport Consulting to assist with the recruitment of a part-time development officer for CNSW on a fixed term arrangement. Funds for this will partly come from the grants we received for the Player Pathways to Performance program, as well as to introduce and support the framework for the operation of the regions and partly from CNSW funds. The consultant will also assist the Board to undertake consultation with members to establish a new strategic plan for the next 5 years. There will be more communication on this before Christmas.

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There have unfortunately been recurring issues with entries to CNSW tournaments where some players have not paid their fees and have built up debts over some time. To address this and ensure our book keeping around tournament entries is best practice the Board decided that no player would be allowed to play in a CNSW Event unless the entry fee has been paid. Ideally the fee should be paid at the time of entering by direct deposit or cheque however if this is not possible players should contact the tournament manager to make other arrangements. The new policy is “no pay, no play”, which aligns with arrangements in other states and other sports.

At the discussion forum which followed the AGM there was a lot of interest in the establishment of the Cooks River Croquet Club (CRCC). The Board is continuing to negotiate with the newly formed club around arrangements at Tempe. The principle will be that CNSW will engage CRCC to run and maintain Tempe on behalf of CNSW while it establishes itself. CNSW will also provide support to help the club properly establish as, in line with the business plan, we wish to pass over full responsibility for the facilities there by 2021 (or sooner if the opportunity presents). The arrangement will ensure continued access to high quality lawns for a range of CNSW competitions as well as allow access for CNSW members.

Many of you will be interested to know that the Board has now agreed to a new approach in the presentation of awards to winners of CNSW events. For 2019 the glasses that have been a feature of presentations will be replaced by special badges for winners and runners up. These will be made available to tournament managers along with winner and runner up certificates to be presented at the conclusion of each event. Thank you to Lorraine Hatfield (Sutherland) who made this proposal and who will be coordinating the distribution of these awards. What is yet to be determined is what the annual presentation event, where the perpetual trophies are presented, will be like for 2019 and into the future. If you have some constructive ideas on this Lorraine and Roberta would love to hear from you!

As can be seen from the above notes the CNSW Board has been very busy in the last couple of months creating a forward-thinking path that will lead croquet in NSW to a brighter and stronger future.

Happy Hooping,

Brenda Wild