

CROQUET NSW Inc



ANNUAL REPORT 2011—2012

Prepared by Pam Gentle
Thank you to Dennis Faggotter and Chris Lavina for photos

CROQUET NSW Inc

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Patron: Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC Governor of New South Wales

The Executive Committee:

President	Mr John Compton
Senior Vice President	Mr Roger Evans
Junior Vice President	Ms Wendy Fothergill
Secretary	Mrs Pam Gentle
Treasurer	Mr John Eddes

A full listing of Officers is included in the Yearbook of the Association

REPORTS:

President's Report

Once again NSW croquet has been to the forefront of Australian croquet. The NSW AC team again retained the Eire Cup making this the third consecutive year that NSW has won this prestigious competition. I was present in Perth for the final two days of competition and was privileged to watch some outstanding croquet from all the NSW team. The women again proved formidable, dropping only one match in the two days. The men crushed Queensland but struggled against an almost Australian team representing Victoria. They did manage three matches which was enough together with the women's 7 to win comfortably. There is no truth to the rumour that a member of the NSW team was so confident that he/she left the EIRE CUP on the kitchen table instead of taking it to Perth. Who starts these rumours?

The NSW GC team also defended the Interstate Shield for the third time – there is some symmetry here – this time in Brisbane. NSW were undefeated but were very strongly pressed by Qld, WA and Victoria. NSW will need to be on their game in September as the other states are improving each year.

The World Open GC Championships were held in London in 2011 with NSW strongly represented by John Levick, Mike Jenner, Tony Hall and Joe Dimech. Also in November 2011 the World Women's GC Championships were held in New Zealand. NSW was represented by Rosemary Graham, Pam Gentle, Christine Pont and Ros Johnstone. All

players did themselves proud and were wonderful ambassadors for NSW croquet. Rosemary Graham was the most successful Australian player making the semi-finals. Unfortunately she was up against a very formidable opponent, Rachel Rowe from England who proved too strong on the day. Rachel went on to defeat Jenny Clarke of NZ over five arduous games. NSW was also represented by a contingent of referees Robyn Wallace, Jacky McDonald, Ron Johnstone, Bev Smith, Robyn and John Compton. We not only produce excellent players but also excellent referees.

The World Open AC Championships were held in Adelaide, again with NSW strongly represented by Peter Landrebe, Trevor Bassett, Jim Nicholls, Stephen Richards, Ken Edwards, Alan Walsh, Mike Hughes, Charlotte Morgan and Alan Honey. NSW will also be strongly represented at the Inaugural Women's World AC Championships to be held at Cairnlea later this year. Alison Sharpe, Rosemary Graham, Clare Bassett, Nerida Taylor, Chloe Aberley and Barbara McTiernan will vie for the title.

Another highlight of the Year has been the win by John Levick of the Australian Open for GC held at Cairnlea in May. John has won this title twice in 3 years. Well done another son of the Hunter, Croquet Champions as well as Master Chefs. John has also been selected as a member of the first Australian GC Team that will travel to Johannesburg SA to compete against 7 other countries at the World Teams Division 1 GC Competition.

I was asked by a CNSW player the reasons why croquet is not shown on TV. One reason would be that decision makers have ill informed ideas about croquet. An example of this was on a popular quiz show where a question was asked, "What do you call the arches that the wooden balls used in croquet are hit through?" Things may change as some popular TV personalities will be playing croquet on the Fox Footy Channel "After the Bounce" program on Sunday 12th August at 7.30pm. Hopefully they won't be bashing wooden balls through arches with flamingos. (I know, nothing like telling you after the event)

I should report on our progress with regards to a permanent licence for Tempe and the development of new clubhouse facilities – nil and some. We are still awaiting word from Marrickville Council about a licence extension but we have had meetings with Concordia with regard to the footprint our clubhouse would make. John Eddes has had dialogue with manufacturers of demountable buildings to investigate sizes and shapes. John Fransen and Alix Verge have been advising John on building regulations and requirements. The Executive has discussed the run down state of the facilities at Tempe and is currently looking at measures to improve the facilities including shelters and seating. The toilet may even be fixed. If you have any suggestions please advise a member of the management committee. Bulldozing the Leaning Shed of Tempe is not an option. The lawns are in good order for winter and are continuing to play consistently. A full renovation is planned for the end of the year.

Marrickville Council has had prepared by a team of consultants a Strategic Recreational Needs Plan. This tome goes about 390+ pages but importantly for us croquet actually gets a mention – twice. There may be repercussions for croquet in Marrickville some time in the future. Both Marrickville CC and CNSW have made submissions on the report.

My personal thanks to the outgoing CNSW committee Pam, John, Roger and Wendy who have supported both myself and croquet in NSW with both time and effort over the last 12 months. They put their hands up, persisted in doing a job that is entirely voluntary, at times thankless and often frustrating. My heartfelt thanks for this support.



CROQUET NSW INCORPORATED
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

GENERAL OPERATIONS		2012	2011
INCOME			
Affiliation fees		117816.50	102034.50
Tournament entry fees		11998.00	9352.00
Dept of Sport & Recreation grant		16500.00	16500.00
Interest received		3636.05	3294.06
Profit on sales	Merchandise	610.36	601.34
	Year books	108.62	164.00
	Other sales	336.20	196.50
Revenue from	Coaching	1985.00	747.50
	Referee instruction	790.00	450.00
	Lawn hire	876.00	1155.30
	Gala & open days (net)	435.00	455.00
	Presentation day (net)	22.00	-195.90
	Raffles (net)	99.90	98.00
	Gateball Championship (net)	130.30	0.00
Public liability insurance levies		11045.00	8897.25
Aust Championships (net):		0.00	1062.06
Sundry income		56.90	1.02
Total Income		166445.83	144812.63
EXPENDITURE			
Affiliation fees paid to Croquet Aust		64156.00	57443.00
Tournament entry fees paid to Croquet Aust		1725.00	1630.00
Lawn maintenance		16228.71	37911.66
Administration expenses	Wages and Superannuation	6305.65	6687.15
	Stationery	646.19	1451.09
	Postage	1259.82	2002.77
	Telephone	536.44	913.18
	Computer expenses	1145.32	1196.58
	Printing	898.70	951.90
	Insurance	678.85	796.02
	Auditors fees	0.00	0.00
Expenditure on	Coaching	2357.45	836.75
	Refereeing	1476.05	604.45
	Lawn hire	2266.00	1280.00
	Travel	3428.40	1947.66
	Newsletter	3153.70	3212.00
	State team	10384.94	9633.02
	Schools development grants	2800.00	2200.00
	Trophies	978.56	1003.40
	Catering & Housekeeping (net)	348.01	325.26

New equipment	301.48	407.27
Public liability insurance	11195.94	8736.42
Repairs and maintenance	178.02	1623.49
Marrickville Council - lease	311.30	0.00
Net GST expense	5917.00	4652.00
Depreciation	1175.00	1480.00
Write off assets & merchandise	29.35	51.43
Sundry expenses	125.00	48.00
Total Expenses	140006.88	149024.50

Surplus (Loss) on General Operations	26438.95	(4,211.87)
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INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES

Interest on Investments	13700.00	11500.00
Surplus on Investment Activities	13700.00	11500.00

Total Surplus on consolidated activities	40138.95	7288.13
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CROQUET NSW INCORPORATED

Balance Sheet at 30 June 2012

	2012	2011
Current assets		
Cash at bank		
AMP Employees credit union - term deposit	191,893.29	181,743.44
Commonwealth Bank - cheque account	262.41	3,985.60
Commonwealth Bank - cash invest account	112,970.40	78,877.20
	<u>305,126.10</u>	<u>264,606.24</u>
Petty Cash and cash assets		
Office petty cash	100.00	100.00
Sundry Debtors	1089.60	1015.20
Stock on hand at cost	1144.89	1282.20
Accrued interest to 30 June 2012	1270.00	2333.00
Total current assets	<u>308,730.59</u>	<u>269,336.64</u>
Non current assets		
Plant and equipment		
at cost less depreciation	<u>5713.00</u>	<u>6888.00</u>
Total assets	<u>314,443.59</u>	<u>276,224.64</u>
Less		
Current liabilities		
Sundry Creditors	<u>3838.00</u>	<u>5758.00</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>3838.00</u>	<u>5758.00</u>
Net assets	<u>310,605.59</u>	<u>270,466.64</u>

General funds

As at 1 July 2012	69,540.12	73,751.99
Surplus (Loss) from general operations	26,438.95	-4,211.87
Transfer to HQ/Building Fund	-25,000.00	
Balance as at 30 June 2012	<u>70,979.07</u>	<u>69,540.12</u>

Special Funds

HQ/Building fund

As at 1 July 2011	200,926.52	189,426.52
Surplus from investment activities	13,700.00	11,500.00
Transfer from general funds	<u>25,000.00</u>	
Balance as at 30 June 2012	<u>239,626.52</u>	<u>200,926.52</u>

Total Funds at 30 June 2012

<u>310,605.59</u>	<u>270,466.64</u>
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Financial Annual Report

This years financial result was unexpectedly high due to three main reasons and a number of contributing factors.

The surplus from general operations was \$26439, up substantially from last years deficit of \$4212. We had budgeted to recover this deficit and improve our position but the result was considerably more than budgeted, and more than would normally be expected from our association. The main reasons were increased affiliation fees, increased tournament entry fees and reduced lawn maintenance expenses.

Affiliation fees were up by \$15800 due partly to new members and partly to the increased member fees payable 1 July 2011. \$6700 of this increase was passed to Croquet Australia as a result of their increased fees to CNSW and our larger membership.

Tournament Fees were up by \$2600 due partly to entry fee increases in 2012 and partly to increased participation in some events, mainly golf croquet and both pennants competitions. Lawn maintenance charges were reduced by \$21700 due to no annual renovation in 2011/2012 and the new maintenance contract agreed with the green keeper in July 2011.

Administration expenses have reduced by \$2500 in the year and \$7000 in 5 years. This is due to better use of technology and improved efficiency.

Offset against this was an increase in GST of \$1300 due to our increased receipts.

The stronger finances enabled us to increase reimbursements by a total of \$6200 to clubs for lawn use and schools grants, to state team representatives, and to officials for expenses in performing their duties. Some of the latter was offset by increased revenue from the activities undertaken.

The interest on our investments is \$13700, up \$2200 due to higher balances and a rearrangement of one of our investment accounts. The reduction in interest rates did not have a significant effect in the year but will do so in 2012/2013.

John Eddes
Treasurer

School Croquet Report

This year twelve clubs applied to Croquet NSW for the Schools Grant. Their numbers show that almost 900 primary, secondary and tertiary students were introduced to some form of croquet during the year. I am aware that there are other clubs involved with schools and it would be great if this involvement could continue. Most students will not take up the game at the moment but if they have enjoyed the experience there is every chance they will return at a later date. In fact I have recently learnt that a student who attended sport lessons with Braxton Public School is now studying at Macquarie Uni and has joined Eastwood Club.

The clubs were involved with 7 primary schools, 7 secondary schools and 2 tertiary institutions. There were 6 metropolitan clubs and 6 country. Special mention should be made of Wagga Wagga Club as they deal with all four secondary schools in the area and even run a competition between them. In addition a team from one of the schools there competed in the Australian Gateball championships.

Because of the small numbers (8), the 2011 Schools Championship was held at Wagga Wagga. I found this most disappointing as they were timed for the end of the year when students have completed their exams. This year it has been set down for the first weekend in December. Maybe the clubs involved with schools could promote it again this year. In addition there are school students out there who have been encouraged by grandparents and they would be most welcome.

Maitland Club has introduced Grandparents Day. It is held during the school holidays and members are encouraged to bring their grandchildren for the afternoon. It really has been most successful with over 20 children attending with ages ranging from 4 to 15. Maybe other clubs could do the same thing.

There is still interest from clubs for the Active After Schools Community. This involves students aged 6 – 10 learning basic croquet skills for one hour after school usually at their school so that means actual games are difficult. One group spent the first few weeks at their school then arranged for the local croquet club to be used on the last day. It is amazing just how much the children enjoy it.

As Director of Schools Croquet I find it difficult to keep in touch with the clubs who are involved with schools. If your club takes school programs or AASC will you please send me the contact details of the member responsible.

Jacky McDonald

Director of School Croquet



Tournament Committee Report

In the past twelve months Croquet New South Wales has conducted over forty events involving Association Croquet, Golf Croquet and Gateball. Some events had only a few entries and at least seven were cancelled due to lack of interest. It is a pity but it seems to be the Association events that have suffered. It was pleasing to see the Division 2 and 3 Singles and Doubles Golf Croquet held at Nowra and Jamberoo and I trust that the Golf Croquet Handicap events to be held at Ballina and Byron Bay will be just as successful.

Thank you to the clubs who have allowed Croquet NSW events to be held on their lawns. The members of those clubs also need to be thanked as they are the ones who have lost their time on the lawns.

Without the assistance of Tournament Managers and Referees the conduct of these events is difficult. This year it has been a struggle to have managers present. Thank you to all those players who have undertaken these roles and carried them out most successfully. We are always looking for more volunteers to manage or referee as the number of tournaments held is increasing each year. The strain on our current volunteers is not sustainable.

The pennants have been successfully completed for 2012. It was pleasing to see the increased numbers in both Association and Golf Croquet. Starting the Division 2 and 3 Golf Croquet earlier seems to have been successful and the semi finals and finals were completed by the end of June. The smaller numbers in Association meant that the competition was run as a Round Robin for all three divisions. Well done to all the players who took part and congratulations to the winning clubs.

It would be appreciated if clubs could display the CNSW Calendar of Events on a notice board and encourage their members to be aware of these dates. I notice that the various club tournaments are invariably promoted in that way. Yes I realise that it does mean that we have to make a choice at times.

This will be my last report as Chairman of the Tournament Committee. After seven years it is time for others to step forward especially those who are saying “Why don’t you.....” and “I think it would be better if”

My sincere thanks to those members of the Tournament Committee with whom I have worked over the past seven years.

Jacky McDonald
Chairperson



Association Croquet Eire Cup Team

The New South Wales team was once again victorious in the Eire Cup competition held in Perth from 21st to 25th March. This is the third year in a row NSW has won, and the fourth time in six years. Congratulations to the team of Rosemary Graham (captain), Alison Sharpe, Claire Bassett, Charlotte Morgan, Stephen Richards (vice-captain), Peter Landrebe, Jim Nicholls and Tim Murphy, with reserves Ken Edwards and Pam Gentle.

The competition as always was very strong, and all NSW team members played well to score convincing wins against every other state. The scores for NSW were: against Tasmania 19 - 1, against South Australia 18 - 2, against Western Australia 13 - 7, against Queensland 18 - 2, and against Victoria 13 - 7.

Congratulations to Rosemary Graham, who won all her singles matches, and to Alison Sharpe, who backed up her win in the Australian Women's Open to win 9 of her 10 singles matches in the Eire Cup. Claire Bassett, and Jim Nicholls (playing in his first Eire Cup) also won 9 of their 10 singles matches.



Golf Croquet Interstate Shield Team

NSW again triumphed in the Golf Croquet Interstate Shield remaining undefeated against all other States. NSW has now won the Interstate Shield 3 times in a row indicating the depth of talent available for selection in NSW.

Victoria and Queensland were the hot favourites but NSW proved to be the most consistent and motivated team, comfortably defeating both favourites. The toughest match for NSW was on the final day against WA where all singles players had to dig deep to hang onto a narrow lead (4-2). That was good enough to win the test and the competition. Congratulations to team members Christine Pont, Martyn Prins, Ros Johnstone, Ron Johnstone, Mike Jenner, Pam Gentle (Captain), John Levick, Barb Piggott and Jumpin' Joe Dimech. A special mention of the strong showings of Martyn, Barb and Joe making their first appearance in the interstate competition.



Golf Croquet Report

The past 12 months have been extremely busy for Golf Croquet starting last September with the inaugural Champion of Champions, closely followed by the State Handicap Championships being hosted by Urunga and Sawtell. Tempe played host to the Division 1 doubles and singles in October. The NSW Men's was held in late March closely followed by the Women's in April. Entries have been down for most of these events and I would like to encourage all players to consider entering these events in the future.

Nowra and Jamberoo hosted the GC Division 2 and 3 respectively in late April and the GC Open Doubles was held at Tempe in early May. The Bronze Medal was held in July with the play off for the ACA Gold Medal in Melbourne in August.

The State Team travel to Melbourne in August for the Interstate Shield and congratulations to all players on their selection and I know they will be professional in their endeavours to retain the shield.

In addition to CNSW events, players from NSW also played in a number of ACA events in Melbourne this year including the Presidents 10s in February and ACA Open Doubles and Singles in May and results have been very impressive. I am sure those playing in the ACA Men's and Women's in August will represent the state with distinction.

Referees and coaches have been busy conducting workshops throughout the state over the period and I thank this dedicated band of players who give up their time to promote our sport. The introduction of reaccreditation for referees is also a positive step to ensure the standard of the game is maintained at all levels.

Whilst the role of GC Coordinator is not an onerous position, combined with my coaching commitments I have been kept fairly busy and have enjoyed support from all levels and enjoyed the opportunity to assist the promotion of our sport.

Barb Piggott
Golf Croquet Coordinator



Coaching Report

Firstly, on behalf of all members of CNSW, I would like to thank Geof McDonald for the number of years he put into SDC prior to my appointment last year. I now understand the demands of the position and how much time and effort goes into it.

It has been an extremely busy year for coaching starting with putting together a spread sheet with contact details for coaches at all levels to ensure they can be contacted to ensure they have the opportunity to remain on the Active list. A number of players have opted to be moved to the Inactive list and I thank them for their service to coaching in the past.

The main emphasis this year was updating Association coaches who were due for reaccreditation and this has been fairly successful with a number of updating workshops for Beginner and Level 1 Coaches held throughout the State. A couple of players qualified as Beginner Coaches and I welcome them to the coaching ranks and hope that they enjoy the experience of passing on their knowledge to new players.

David Wise (National Director of Coaching – AC) was invited to NSW to conduct a Level 2 Coaches Workshop and congratulations to our three (almost qualified) Level 2 coaches. David also conducted general clinics at Tempe and these were well received by those who attended.

Golf Croquet players have not been neglected with a few players qualifying as Club Coaches and a number attending workshops in general coaching and tactics which always generates discussion as scenarios are put to those attending and the best course of play debated by all.

I will be attending a meeting with Greg Bury (National Director of Coaching – GC) and other State Coaching Directors in early September where the National Coaching direction for Golf Croquet will be discussed and the next 12 months will be busy with the implementation of the new standards for Golf Croquet coaches. More details of the new system will be posted on the CNSW website as they become available.

Finally I would like to thank all Clubs who have made me so welcome during the past 12 months and the players who have made my job that much easier by their enthusiastic participation.

Barb Piggott
SDC



Refereeing Report

I would like to begin with thanking the members of the Refereeing Committee for their ideas, input, discussion and work during the last year.

On behalf of the Refereeing Committee I congratulate those who gained their officiating qualification since the last AGM report. We recognise that it is a big commitment to attend workshops, study and practise, and prepare for the Referee/Umpire's exam. This is only the beginning – the real learning, and development of skills and confidence occurs on the court as new skills are applied to competition/championship events.

Thank you to those who organise referees for CNSW events held at Tempe. It is not an easy task as those who live closest are approached most often.

Many thanks to those who respond to requests and volunteer their time to travel to Tempe to oversee CNSW events.

Examining referees are sincerely thanked for their time and great commitment to organising and conducting training workshops for refereeing candidates, and refresher workshops for qualified officials. Conducting examinations is only part – but an extremely important part – of their responsibilities.

Last year, the Refereeing Committee and Co-ordinator of Golf Croquet introduced a system of re-accreditation for all Croquet Umpires and Referees which will require at least some refereeing and attendance or conducting of updating/refresher workshops to acquire a small given number of points. This system is applicable only to CNSW referees.

A National program of training, examining, accrediting and re-accrediting has been approved by Australian Sports Commission and adopted by Croquet Australia. This document can be found on the Croquet Australia website.

Jan Sage
CNSW SDR



Newsletter Report

Another year, another four issues. Sadly, one of these had to be reduced in size as there were just not enough contributions to fill the usual quota. The following clubs have sent in at least one article for insertion over the year: Alstonville, Ballina, Ballina Cherry Street, Blue Mountains, Branxton, Byron Bay, Cammeray, Canberra, Chatswood, Dubbo, Eastwood, EDSACC, Forster, Gloucester, Hunters Hill, Jamberoo, Lismore, Maitland, Manly, Milton-Ulladulla, Mosman, Muswellbrook, Narooma, Nelson Bay, Newcastle National Park, Nowra, Port Macquarie, Sawtell, South West Rocks, Strathfield, Sutherland, Sydney, Taree, Toronto, Urunga, Wollongong and Young. In addition there have been reports about interclub events such as a 3 Way Challenge with southern clubs, South Coast Shield, Mid North Coast. Some reports have been about the involvement of children – Inter-school Golf Croquet and Gateball, and a Grandparents day. The total number of clubs sending material is still less than half, so those of you who have been silent please share something with us! As was the case last year, there has been almost no response to the Letters page I introduced

Tournament Managers of Club and CNSW competitions continue to provide good reports of the various ways in which players test their skills as well as meeting up with new and old friends. Certainly, the Tournament calendar provides many such opportunities. Photos are appreciated and enhance articles. Keep in mind that these are small when reproduced and allow for the black and white format.

Thank you to all the contributors – some regular ones and some new ones. Please keep writing and if your club is not mentioned above, I hope we shall have some report, no matter how small, indicating how you are enjoying this great game of ours. I do not want to reduce the size of any future issues!

Wendy Fothergill
Editor

NSW Gateball Report

2011-12 has been another big year for gateball in NSW. It started off with a bang at the Australia Gateball Championship held at the Newcastle National Park Croquet Club from 16-18 September. Over 150 people competed, including teams from China and Japan, making it possibly the largest mallet sports event ever held in Australia. Here are some of the other highlights:

In December the Narooma Croquet Club hosted the 2011 NSW Gateball Championship. There was a huge turnout, with teams from across NSW as well as Victoria and Queensland. Many thanks to tournament organiser Max Murray and all of the Narooma club members for putting on such a great show.

The Blue Mountains Croquet Club hosted their second annual gateball competition. This year the weather was stunning (as were the pies). Six teams competed, including one from the Tamborine Mountains in Queensland.

The Wagga Wagga Croquet Club hosted the inaugural Riverina Gateball Championship. Josh Willsher and Will Antill did a fantastic job organising their first competition. There was a great vibe throughout the whole weekend, with teams self-refereeing games and enjoying catching up over great food during the breaks.

Once again members of the Blue Mountains, Canberra and Epping Croquet Clubs were out promoting gateball, running demonstrations in Bateau Bay, Eastwood, Sutherland, Tempe and Wagga Wagga.

John and Penny Park from the Blue Mountains Croquet Club ran gateball sessions as part of the Active Afterschool Communities Program. Congratulations to them both for demonstrating that mallets sports are for all ages.

Next year looks set to see the growth of gateball continue in NSW. Mosman Croquet Club has kindly agreed to host the 2012 NSW Gateball Championships. There has already been a lot of interest in the competition and we are likely to see more interstate teams entering. Watch this space!

As always, if you are interested in trying gateball at your club, feel free to email me at alex.t.park@gmail.com. More information about gateball is available at www.gateball.com.au.

Report from State Handicapper

Guide dogs are certainly a wonderful feature of our society. The sight impaired amongst us must be thankful that this system allows them to participate equally to those of us gifted with clear vision. By now you are confirming your belief that I have lost the plot. Maybe so, however I liken the assistance given by those wonderful canine companions to our handicapping system. It hopefully levels the "playing field" so that all have a fair chance of success.

For this to happen the degree of assistance offered to each player has to be as appropriate and for this to happen a high degree of COMMUNICATION has to occur.

I keep records of each of our 3000+ players which shows a history of their handicap and index changes since I took on this job. To do this I use reports from tournament managers, club handicappers, club secretaries (who send annual summaries of their club members' handicaps) and even from members themselves who are proud of their performance and want it noted in our list on the web.

I am constantly given surprises which make me question this activity's worth. For instance a player on my list with a handicap of 5, set about 2 months ago, suddenly appears at a tournament with a handicap of 7 with no notified events being held locally. If I had a suspicious mind I would have a field day.

The AHS is not the only document which can be used to notify of handicap changes. Anything which affects a handicap or index should be noted and sent to me. Rapid improvers, illnesses and the deterioration in performance that often ensues can trigger handicap changes. Just communicate those facts.

Maintaining H/C cards is a necessary skill we all need to develop and maintain. No matter how meticulous or mathematically competent we are, sometimes a little mistake occurs and this can have confusing and embarrassing consequences. When checking my club's handicap cards recently I found many mistakes caused by "who knows what", but most of all I was daunted by the nature of the task. To make the job easier and more accurate I developed a little EXCEL spreadsheet which is simple to operate and uses minimal input to accurately, speedily and with little mind numbing to do the job.

With the aid of another person calling entries a lot of cards can be checked quickly. I will post it on our web site so download it and try.

Recently I have had a few calls and emails seeking information about our handicapping system which only emphasises what a diverse group of players is catered for in our organisation. From the very canny and professionally competitive player to the purely social event participant ... - we have them all and each has a valid right to expect us to help them achieve their aims. I hope I have assisted those people and would encourage others with questions to contact me.

To games captains I would like to suggest that they include some handicap games in the usual daily social games played at the club. It will certainly promote some discussion and assist players to gain enjoyment from our versatile sport.

Peter Smith