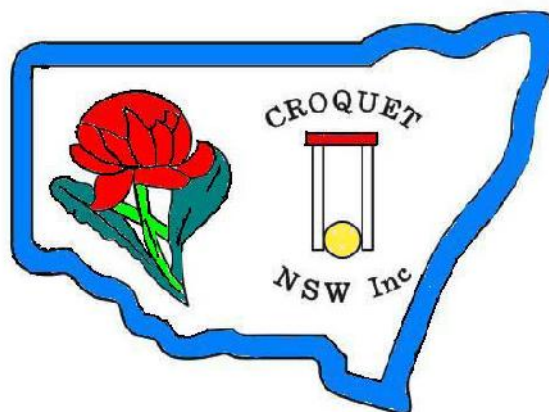


CROQUET NSW



ANNUAL REPORT

2015-16

Supported by the



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This Annual Report has been produced by Mr Stephen Thornton, Director -
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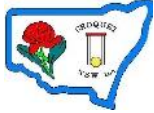
Website www.croquet-nsw.org



CROQUET NSW Inc

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CROQUET NSW Inc

PATRON

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

THE BOARD

Chair	Mr. Tony McArthur
Director - Secretary	Mr. Steve Thornton
Director - Treasurer	Mr. John Eddes
Director - AC Liaison	Mr. Jim Nicholls
Director - GC Liaison	Ms Rosie Landrebe
Director - Ricochet Liaison	Mrs. Brenda Wild
Director - Gateball Liaison	Mr. John Compton

CNSW MEMBERSHIP SNAPSHOT		
	<i>Affiliated Clubs</i>	<i>Affiliated Members</i>
1 July 2015	69	2976 (2125 Country 851 Metro)
1 July 2016	69	3152 (2307 Country 845 Metro)

Report From the Chair of the CNSW Board

During the year our New South Wales members have been out there on the lawns showing that we are a strong Croquet State. Our members have participated in Australian championships, World Championships and International events in Association, Golf Croquet and Gateball. Congratulations to all our members who have participated in all these events. I have been proud to be one of the directors of this association. It has been my privilege to serve as your Chair. Thank you all.

Any organisation needs not only a management committee to keep things perking along, but also assistance from many volunteers who give their time during the year - often behind the scenes. A huge thank you to all the committees and their members, referees and time-keepers without whom the organisation would not run so smoothly. In particular, a big thank you to Wendy Forthergill who, apart from always being available for refereeing duties at Tempe, is also in charge of the fantastic Croquet - NSW Newsletter. Unfortunately, Wendy has decided to stand down from her role of preparing the Newsletter, Wendy you will be sadly missed.

Administratively, it has been a challenging year with a new constitution and board structure. With these changes there existed an ideal opportunity to move the organisation further forward while encompassing a new structure. Unfortunately, this has not been the case and much of the enthusiasm has been drained from many of the Board Members – myself included.

Despite this during the year we have been able, thanks to Jim Nicholls to secure funding from Lonsec Stockbroking for the new State uniforms. In December last year we held a planning and information session and later in the year we a planning a Croquet Conference.

I will thank those Board Members involved personally.

This report will be my last as an administrator of Croquet - NSW as I am neither prepared to work with disharmony at board meetings nor tolerate acidic emails. These actions are hurtful to voluntary members and distract their focus from the business of your association.

Looking forward to seeing you on the lawns.

I love this game!!!

Tony McArthur

Report From the CNSW Secretary

This year has seen CNSW administration transition from a 5 person Executive where people were elected to the Executive to fill positions to a Board containing 7 Directors where all Directors except for the Chair were assigned portfolios.

Between the 2015 AGM and the 2016 AGM there will have been 1 meeting of the 'Executive' and 8 meetings of the 'Board'. The minutes of the meetings of the Board, once they have been accepted by the Board, are posted on the website.

When the New Constitution was registered in September 2015, Part A of the Old Handbook (the 2006 Constitution) became obsolete and shortly afterwards other sections became obsolete as they were converted into a number of stand alone CNSW Policies. There are a small number of sections of the Old Handbook which are still in force but these will be replaced over the next few months by CNSW Policies.

The CNSW Board delegates some of its functions via its committees. The New Constitution provides an ideal opportunity to give these committees the autonomy and authority to operate successfully and communicate directly with CNSW members.

The Website Administrator will report separately but clubs and their club secretaries are to be thanked and congratulated on their uptake of the CNSW database. In this era of 'self help' it is great achievement. Statistics are important to CNSW and the database provides us with some of these so it would be beneficial if clubs and their members could populate as many of the fields in the database as possible.

Circumstances may prevent me from continuing as Secretary beyond the AGM and if that is the case I'd like to thank the various Club Secretaries and Officers that I have had the pleasure of interacting with.

Steve Thornton

Report from the CNSW Treasurer

This year there was a deficit of \$4500 from General Operations and a surplus from Investment Activities of \$20600, giving an overall surplus of \$16100.

Income increased by \$6500 due mainly to increases in affiliation fees of \$3200 and in tournament entry fees of \$2400. These were due to new members affiliating and more participation in competitions as there was no increase in the individual fees payable. There was also a new item of \$1000 of sponsorship for the State Teams' uniforms – Association, Golf and Gateball.

Expenditure increased by \$19200 for a number of reasons which were also offset by some reductions. The most significant items are shown below and the smaller items can be seen in the accounts.

- Affiliation fees paid to Croquet were up \$6300 due to increased membership and increased ACA levies.
- Wages and superannuation were up \$9100 due to a settlement of underpaid wages over a number of years.
- State team expenses were up \$5600. This was due mainly to the AC Eire Cup being in Melbourne compared to Sydney – fares up \$1100 and accommodation up \$1700. Increases were also due to a larger GC team (up \$800) and uniform costs (up \$1700). The latter was partly offset by the sponsorship referred to in the income.
- Computer expenses were up \$3800 due to donations for the development of the membership data base, and the maintenance of croquetscores.
- Repairs and maintenance were down \$6300 as last year's figures included the renovation of our premises and substantial repairs to the irrigation system.

Following on from last year's decision to invest some of our funds in higher earning investments four investments totaling \$150,000 were finalised early in the financial year. The return from the investments overall increased by \$8500 including \$5700 in unrealised gains in market value in the four new investments.

John Eddes - Treasurer

CROQUET NSW INCORPORATED		
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016		
GENERAL OPERATIONS	2016	2015
INCOME		
Affiliation fees	128602.50	125430.00
Tournament entry fees	13865.00	11460.00
Dept of Sport & Recreation grant	16500.00	16500.00
Interest received	1315.09	1471.79
Profit on sales		
	Merchandise	328.07
	Other sales	155.00
Revenue from	Coaching	3345.00
	Referee instruction	70.00
	Use of HQ lawns & equipment	331.75
	Sponsorship	1000.00
	Gala & open days (net)	0.00
	Raffles (net)	0.00
Public liability insurance levies	10794.33	9787.67
Sundry income	14.15	12.30
Total Income	176320.89	169833.12
EXPENDITURE		
Affiliation fees paid to Croquet Aust	77062.50	70758.50
Tournament entry fees paid to Croquet Aust	1680.00	1655.01
Lawn maintenance	25980.64	26817.36
Administration expenses		
	Wages and Superannuation	13133.50
	Stationery	641.94
	Postage	1626.01
	Telephone	502.40
	Computer expenses	809.08
	IT fees	3500.00
	Printing	1022.50
	Insurance	823.13
Expenditure on	Coaching	3489.02
	Refereeing	381.75
	Lawn hire fees to clubs	3495.00
	Travel - Board	896.98
	Travel - Other	2018.00
	Newsletter	3577.20
	Year books (net)	1003.90
	State team	14013.72
	Schools development grants	2869.95
	Publicity	1405.70
	Presentation day (Net)	177.00
	Trophies	1253.89
	Catering & Housekeeping (net)	311.84
New equipment	575.34	1722.03
Public liability insurance	10790.35	9854.58
Repairs and maintenance	1797.35	8108.00
HQ overheads; lease & cleaning	536.30	911.30
National Championships 2015 (net)	0.00	1935.77
National Champs 2021 provision	500.00	0.00
Net GST expense	3367.00	2471.00
Depreciation	1207.50	1226.95
Write off assets	0.00	281.00
Sundry expenses	412.94	2570.81
Total Expenses	180862.43	161627.51
Surplus (Loss) on General Operations	(4,541.54)	8205.61
INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES		
Interest & Distributions	15009.10	12185.00
Movement in value	5657.47	
Surplus on Investment Activities	20666.57	12185.00
Total Surplus on consolidated activities	16125.03	20390.61

CROQUET NSW INCORPORATED

Balance Sheet at 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
Current assets		
Cash on Hand		
Commonwealth Bank - cheque account	11,022	8,843
Commonwealth Bank - cash invest account	10,057	107,356
Quay credit union - term deposits	209,581	203,146
	<u>230,660</u>	<u>319,344</u>
Office petty cash	0	100
Accounts Receivable and other debtors		
Sundry Debtors	1,273	2,980
Accrued interest to 30 June 2016	3,065	2,755
Stock on hand at cost	780	1,023
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>235,778</u>	<u>326,202</u>
Non current assets		
Investments		
Australian Unity Healthcare Property Trust	58,428	50,000
Cromwell Direct Property Trust	32,980	
ANZ Subordinated Notes	29,319	
NAB Subordinated Notes	39,035	
Total investments	<u>159,762</u>	<u>50,000</u>
Equipment		
at written down value	7,144	9,792
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	<u>166,906</u>	<u>59,792</u>
Total assets	<u>402,684</u>	<u>385,994</u>
Less		
Current liabilities		
Sundry Creditors	4,805	2,286
Affiliation & entry fees paid in advance	1,188	3,642
2021 National Champs hosting provision	500	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>6,493</u>	<u>5,928</u>
Net assets	<u>396,191</u>	<u>380,066</u>
General funds		
As at 1 July 2015	81,590	73,384
Surplus (Loss) from general operations	(4,542)	8,206
Transfer to HQ/Building Fund	0	0
Balance as at 30 June 2016	<u>77,048</u>	<u>81,590</u>
Special Funds		
HQ/Building fund		
As at 1 July 2015	298,476	286,291
Surplus from investment activities	20,667	12,185
Transfer from general funds	0	0
Balance as at 30 June 2016	<u>319,143</u>	<u>298,476</u>
Total Funds at 30 June 2016	<u>396,191</u>	<u>380,066</u>

Reports from Elected Officers

State Director Coaching - Golf Croquet

Coaching for Golf Croquet area has been extremely busy since last year's AGM with me attending eleven Clubs throughout the state to work with players during Improve your Game Workshops, with 213 players attending the 11 clinics conducted. These clinics are an opportunity for players of all levels to improve their game and the feedback from those attending is always positive.

The new ACA coaching structure is now in place and requirements to qualify under this structure have been explained in the CNSW Newsletter on two occasions. A number of players are currently undertaking the prerequisites to attend a Level 1 Foundation Coach course, but are yet to do the course. All current coaches are reminded of the requirement to undertake the new ACA approved course when their current accreditation becomes due. Players wishing to become Golf Croquet coaches should download and complete the application form from the CNSW website and forward it for processing.

As this is the last report before the AGM I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the assistance they have given me in this very busy position for the past 12 and wish the incoming appointment every success in improving the standard of Golf Croquet within NSW.

Barb Piggott SDC - GC

State Director Refereeing - Golf Croquet

My sincere thanks to all referees who have made themselves available to referee at various tournaments, carnivals and gala days, especially those who have helped at CNSW events at Tempe throughout the year. Refereeing is very tiring to say the least, however it is very much appreciated by players, organisers and spectators alike.

During the past year Rules and Referee workshops have been conducted at EDSACC, Forster, Myall Park and Newcastle, with Coogee and Sydney to follow in October, and hopefully, Ballina Inc, Cheltenham, Lismore, Mosman and Wollongong before the end of 2016.

Congratulations to those people from Forster, Nowra and Taree who were successful in gaining their Referee Badge, all were well prepared and met the requirements admirably. Thank you also to the Examiners.

2017, brings the task of reaccreditation for the majority of GC referees in NSW. Information will be circulated to all clubs regarding the necessary requirements in order to retain your current status as a referee in NSW. A number of people are presently working towards their status as a referee, and I look forward to their active participation in the future.

For those of you who wish to become a GC referee the steps are simple. Firstly the AIS requirements must be met, then the Open Book Home assessment, followed by the examination of “on court” and theory components. It would be wonderful if all CNSW clubs had at least one qualified Golf Croquet Referee. (I can only wish).

Thank you all for your continued support, I have enjoyed a very busy, event filled year.

Bev Smith SDR GC

State Director Coaching - Association Croquet

The Association coaching arena has not been busy the past 12 months; however I held “Improve your Game Workshops” at two Clubs with 12 players attending. Any workshop scheduled will be advertised on both the CNSW website and through Club Secretaries.

Three players qualified as Level 1 Foundation Coaches with an Association endorsement this year and I thank them for their interest in promoting the sport. Players wishing qualify as a coach should download and complete the application form from the CNSW website and forward it for processing.

A list of players who require reaccrediting in 2016 has been on the CNSW Website since December 2015 and all players now have to complete the new Level 1 Foundation Coaches course to remain current as a coach. All coaches should access the list to see if they require reaccrediting and if so download the Coaching request form available on the CNSW website.

As this is the last report before the AGM I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the assistance they have given me in this position for the past 12 months and wish the incoming appointment every success in the future.

Barb Piggott SDC - AC

State Director Refereeing - Association Croquet

It has been a busy year for refereeing. The great majority of umpires and referees were due for re-accreditation in January 2016, and had to meet the new accreditation requirements of passing an on-line Officiating Test from the Australian Sports Commission, and attendance at a laws/lawncraft course.

The examining referees did a great job, and we ran laws/lawncraft courses in all the relevant areas of NSW. My thanks to Jan Sage, Stephen Howes, Barb Piggott, Peter Tavender, John Cook and Jim Hicks.

It was expected that we would lose a number of officials with the introduction of the on-line course, but our losses were limited to eight referees and eight umpires. As of 10 July 2016 we have 9 examining referees, 22 referees, and 19 umpires. All except four of these have completed the on-line course.

During the year two umpires passed their examinations (thanks to Jan Sage), and four were reclaimed from the inactive list. Two people passed the referee examination, and three were transferred from the inactive list to active referees. Overall we lost sixteen officials, and gained eleven. A number of candidates have attended umpire training courses, and we hope to have several new umpires in the next few months.

Two new examining referees were appointed – John Cook of Bathurst, and Ted Salter of Hunters Hill.

A special section of the CNSW website has been provided for refereeing matters, and a number of useful documents have been posted on it, including the list of officials and their re-accreditation date, the accreditation processes, the latest ORLC, and articles on refereeing.

A strategy for refereeing in NSW was developed in consultation with a range of people.

The SDR has been appointing Tournament Referees for the CNSW tournaments, and has given a wider range of officials the opportunity to act at these tournaments.

I would like to thank the examining referees, referees and umpires for their great service to the game and for all their efforts to maintain the standard of officiating in NSW.

Neil Hardie SDR - AC

Reports from Committees

Tournament Committee

The Tournament Committee started the 2015-16 year with four members: David Stanton (Cammeray, chairman), John Eddes (Sutherland), Mike Hughes (Cammeray) and Robyn Compton (Maitland). During the year Peter Montague (Killara) was added to the committee with a view to increasing the representation of GC players.

The main task of the Tournament Committee is establishing a calendar for CNSW events, and then managing and running those events. We attempt to establish the calendar each year in time to be included in the CNSW Yearbook, after having had it available to clubs on the Website for at least a couple of months before the end of the year. This task is sometimes complicated by other events (mainly International and ACA events) undergoing late changes of date, leading to necessary changes to the dates of some NSW events.

As part of the process of establishing the program of events for a year, we look at what events are not being supported, and could perhaps be dropped, and also at possible new events. Over the last couple of years we have introduced a number of new events, with mixed success. In response to a request for a GC event along the lines of the various AC Brooch events, where competitors from two different handicap bands compete, we introduced the GC Gold Brooch. This is a GC Doubles event, where a Division 1 player partners a Division 2 player. This was introduced in 2015, and very few players entered, which was a bit disappointing. We persevered with it in 2016, and at the moment we have 11 pairs entered for the event, which will be held at Toronto at the end of August.

We also introduced the Tempe Open, an AC event for up to 8 players, aimed at providing games for players heading off to the ACA President's 8s. This attracted a full field of 8 in 2015, and is expected to do the same this year. We also introduced an AC Alternate Stroke Doubles event in 2015, which nobody entered! It is scheduled again for this year.

For several years there has been a Selectors' 10 AC event, the winner of which gets a start in the AC Bronze Medal. Entry to both events is by invitation, with the top-ranked players being invited to the Bronze Medal, and the invitees to the Selectors' 10 being made up of a mix of the next-highest-ranked group of players, and up-and-coming players in whom the selectors see potential. With the change from 10 to 8 starters in the Bronze Medal in 2015, we changed the

Selectors' 10 to a Selectors 8, with the winner to go to the Bronze Medal, and added a Selectors' 2nd 8. This was a bit of a problem in 2015, as we couldn't fill either field, and promotion from the 2nd 8 to the 1st 8 wasn't possible because of two different locations being used (Tempe and Wagga Wagga). This problem has been overcome in 2016 by playing the second 8 at Killara.

At the same time as adding the second 8 for AC, a Selectors' 8 for GC was added. For one reason or another, this event was not held in 2015 even though it had been scheduled. In 2016 a 2nd 8 was also added, although some confusion with names saw it named the 3rd 8 with the original Selectors' 8 being referred to as the 2nd 8. Whatever the name, both events went ahead with a full field.

In planning for 2017, we looked at the attendance at various events over the years 2012 to 2016, with a view to not running any events which were very poorly patronised. A table with these results is shown below. We are recommending that the AC Seniors Week and Silver Doubles events be not run in 2017, and that we give serious consideration to not running the Fransted Trophy, the Silver Brooch and the three AC Handicap events (Gold, Silver and Bronze). If these events do not attract reasonable fields on 2016, we will recommend that they be dropped. We are also hoping to see the Beryl Chambers State Handicap event return to some of its former glory as one of the best-attended events on the calendar.

GC events continue to attract good fields, particularly those run in regional areas. Our policy of seeking clubs to host such events will continue in 2017. Many AC events struggle to attract enough players to warrant them being run. Several AC tournaments have been run over the last year or two with the bare minimum of 4 participants. Often this number is only reached after I have sent reminder emails followed up by phone calls and a bit of arm-twisting. I am at a loss to know why GC events seem to attract large fields, and most AC events don't.

An exception was the AC Open Men's Singles this year, which attracted a field of 20, including two of South Australia's top players. This was a great event, with lots of top level croquet played over 3 days (about 80 games) and a field whose handicaps ranged from -2 to 11. By contrast, the Open Women's Singles attracted only one entry, and we are hoping to reschedule that event for late September.

A perennial problem with events at Tempe is the provision of a Tournament Manager. There are two or three people who do the lion's share of the work,

and something I am hoping to continue working on in 2017 is getting more players trained in tournament management so that the load can be shared. Many thanks to 2016 first-time Managers Alix Verge, Mike Hughes and Peter Montague for making themselves available.

Handling the receipt of entries to NSW events has been streamlined by use of the Duffers Tice, a website developed by Nick Chapman for just this purpose. Some entries are still sent to CNSW by mail or email, but the majority of entries now use The Duffers Tice. Payment can be made while entering, and a confirmation email is sent. Players are encouraged to use this wherever possible. Links to enter are provided on the CNSW website Events page.

A major task for managers is the recording of results. This task has been greatly simplified over recent years by the CroquetScores website, set up and maintained by Tim Murphy, and now regarded as the world standard for recording scores of croquet tournaments. However, for CNSW events, scores are also recorded spreadsheets showing all games played, and a grid showing all game results. This double entry of results is time consuming and, in my opinion, unnecessary. The spreadsheets created at Tempe go to the CNSW handicapper, the newsletter editor and the website administrator, usually along with a report. I would like to see a change so that the report for the website stated the names of the winner and runner up, along with any other commentary thought appropriate, then provided a link to the results of the event on CroquetScores. The spreadsheets currently produced would then seem to me to be unnecessary. I am aware that this is not a unanimous view of the Tournament Committee.

The Tournament Committee is also responsible for the running of Pennants competitions for both AC and GC, a task which has for a number of years been undertaken by Robyn Compton (GC) and David Stanton (AC). GC Pennants attract a large number of entries in Divisions 2 and 3, such that matches are played in three regions, followed by finals at Tempe. Division 1 has consistently attracted around 8 teams, with most games being played in a 2- or 3-day carnival at Tempe. The number of clubs supporting AC Pennants has been gradually dropping over the past few years, with only 6 teams in each of Bronze and Silver divisions in 2016, and two teams in each of Gold and Premier divisions. It would be great to see more clubs from outside Sydney taking part.

David Stanton CNSW Tournament Committee Chairman 2015-2016

CNSW Event Attendances

		2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	Retain?
AC	5 & Under Doubles	6	6	6	5	7	Y
AC	3 & Under Singles	10	8	10	8	15	Y
GC	Division 3 Doubles	12	8	11	11	12	Y
GC	Division 3 Singles	17	8	11	13	17	Y
AC	Bronze Singles	10	10	0	4	8	Y
GC	Division 2 Doubles	14	5	7	6	8	Y
GC	Division 2 Singles	18	13	11	10	11	Y
GC	NSW Men's Singles Championship	10	9	16	10	15	Y
AC	Seniors Week	0	0	0	0	0	N
AC	Win Dickinson Trophy	4	0	0	0	0	Y
AC	Platinum Singles	8	0	10	7	4	Y
GC	NSW Women's Singles Championship	13	6	6	8	6	Y
AC	Silver Singles	0	0	8	0	0	Y
AC	Gold Singles	4	5	6	5	3	Y
AC	Silver Doubles	0	0	5	0	0	N
AC	Gold Doubles	4	4	0	3	4	Y
AC	NSW Open Men's Singles Championship	20	12	12	14	6	Y
AC	Eva Short Memorial Trophy	0	5	5	6	0	Y
AC	NSW AC Handicap (Beryl Chambers Memorial	6	5	7	8	11	Y
GC	Selectors Second 8	8	0				Y
GC	Selectors Third 8	8					Y
AC	NSW Open Women's Singles Championship	1	4	7	5	14	Y
GC	NSW Open Doubles	7	5	14	10	10	Y
GC	NSW Bronze Medal	8	10	8	10	9	Y
AC	Fransted Trophy	0	0	0	0	15	?
GC	NSW Open Singles Championship	13	11	12	13	23	Y
AC	Champion of Champions	8	10	8	7	7	Y
AC	Bronze Brooch	6	7	4	0	6	Y
AC	NSW Open Doubles	4	0	4	0	4	Y
GC	Division 1 Doubles	9	11	11	4	0	Y
GC	Division 1 Singles	22	16	22	7	0	Y
GC	NSW Handicap Doubles	14	rained	8	18	24	Y
GC	NSW Handicap Singles	22	16	14	24	30	Y
GC	Gold Brooch	11	0				Y
AC	Selectors 1st 8	8	6	9	9	9	Y
AC	Selectors 2nd 8	5	4				Y
AC	Gold Brooch		4	0	6	6	Y
AC	Silver Brooch		0	0	0	6	?
AC	Tempe Open		8				Y
AC	Platinum Brooch		4	0	0	0	Y
AC	NSW Bronze Medal	8	8	10	9	10	Y
GC	Champion of Champions		8	7	7	13	Y
AC	NSW Open Singles Championship		9	12	12	10	Y
AC	Alternate Stroke Doubles		0				Y
AC	Gold Handicap Singles		0	3	0	0	?
AC	Silver Handicap Singles		0	0	0	0	?
AC	Bronze Handicap Singles		0	0	0	0	?
Gateball	NSW Gateball Championships						Y

Selection Committee - Golf Croquet

The membership of the Committee was finalised and got approval by the Board on the 5/5/2016. The members are Alison Sharpe (Chair), Pam Gentle (Secretary), Barb Piggott, Margaret Sawers and Rosie Landrebe.

Since that time the Selection Committee have:

- Selected a Chair and a Secretary,
- Selected players for the Bronze Medal (2nd/3rd July 2016),
- Selected players for the 2nd and 3rd Eights (11th/12th June 2016),
- Selected 10 players (5 men & 5 women) for the NSW Interstate Shield Team being played in Perth in Sept 2016,
- Selected an 'A' Team with the intention of these 'A' team players challenging the State Team players during the practice period leading up to the Interstate Shield in September 2016.

We would like to thank Peter Smith, Robyn Compton and Bill Munns, who left the Committee during 2016, for their valuable contribution and all their hard work during the time they were on the Committee.

Selection Committee - Association Croquet

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the AC Selection Committee for their professionalism in conducting this very important role. Whilst the task is not an onerous one, a number of factors are taken into consideration for selection to every event to ensure the best team or players to represent NSW are selected.

This year we again called for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for a number of events and this has assisted in speeding up the selection process as we are not inviting players to events who are not available. Players should check the CNSW Website or check with Club Secretaries to see if an EOI has been issued to ensure they do not miss out on selection for events they may be interested in being selected for.

Barb Piggott – Chair SCAC

Reports from Appointed Officers

Newsletter Editor

The Newsletter has received contributions from a good many clubs in the past year: Ballina, Bathurst, Blue Mountains (2), Branxton (3), Camden Park (2), Cammeray, Canberra, Coutts Crossing, Cowra (3), Dubbo, EDSACC, Eastwood, Forster, Hunters Hill, Jamberoo, Lithgow, Macquarie City, Maitland, Manly, Mosman (2), Muswellbrook, Myall Park (2), Nelson Bay, Northern Rivers, Nowra (3), Port Macquarie (2), Sawtell (2), Strathfield (3), Sutherland, Sydney (2), Taree (2), Toronto (2), Wagga Wagga, Walla Walla and Young – just half of our total number of clubs. Sadly, there are still far too many clubs from which no news has been received. I maintain the hope that one day, some of these ‘silent’ clubs will let us know they are still going strong and give some news of their activities.

Apart from Club news, there have been reports and information from the Directors of AC Coaching & Refereeing (Barb Piggott and Neil Hardie respectively), a great Croquet Tour of New Zealand from Bill Munns, involvement with local festivities, e.g. Croquet on George Street on Australia Day and Canberra Club’s participation at Floriade 2015. The Makara always provides a good report of a more and more popular event and this past year was not disappointing. There were also some interesting histories of a couple of clubs.

I introduced a new section – Player Profiles - and the first responses to this request were really interesting. Hopefully these profiles will continue. Some of the Board Members also gave their responses to a similar set of questions.

Please keep writing – there is NO Newsletter without your contributions!

Wendy Fothergill - Editor

Membership and Records

What a great year Croquet NSW (CNSW) has had. As at 20th July, 2016, our total membership stands at **3152**. An increase from last year. Well done to the clubs who have held “Come n Try” days, Membership drives etc. Many clubs have obtained new members this way – keep up the good work!!

The state membership is split approx. 2/3 country (2307) 1/3 metro (845). This trend has continued for some years. Also women still outnumber the men 2-1.

CNSW has 69 affiliated clubs throughout the state. Our most successful club is Forster with 121 members but hot on their heels are Mosman with 118 & EDSACC with 112. Well done to these clubs.

Our largest groupings of clubs are those with memberships of between 15-29 members – 18 clubs in total.

This year is continuing to be a learning experience with the Database (DB). A big thankyou to all club secretaries for embracing the DB & updating members details where necessary. Club secretaries’ will have noticed there are now more columns in the DB that needs to be completed. The statistical information that CNSW obtains from these columns allows CNSW to apply for grants that become available through the NSW state government and to also allow CNSW to target specific demographics. Having said that, could club secretaries’ please update as much information on the DB as possible.

And finally ***thank you*** to all CNSW members for making my year enjoyable & giving me some interesting questions to answer.

Brenda Wild - Records & Insurance Officer.

Coordinator of Junior Croquet

At the risk of repeating myself I feel very strongly that the young people of today are the future of our sport and we should do all we can to at least give them a taste of the sport. How many times have you heard the comment “I wish I had taken this up earlier”?

In the past twelve months six clubs have taken 316 school students for croquet as follows:

		Term1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Strathfield	Strathfield Girls High			30	27
Branxton	Branxton Primary			18	17
Cheltenham	Cheltenham Girls High	16	16	16	
Hunters Hill	Riverside Girls High			55	48
Woolgoolga	Woolgoolga High			16	24
Muswellbrook	Muswellbrook Primary		23	20	
Muswellbrook	St Joseph's High, Aberdeen		11	9	
	TOTAL	16	50	134	116

Hopefully these students will have enjoyed their experience enough to return to the sport at a later date.

Croquet NSW has nine junior members. Canberra (1), Cammeray (2), Coutts Crossing (2), Killara (1), Manly (1), Queenbeyan (1) and Woolgoolga (1). After many requests on my part Croquet NSW and ACA have now agreed that Junior members pay half the adult affiliation and half the set entry fee for state and Australian competitions. It is to be hoped that clubs will follow suit and reduce their fees.

In preparation for the World Under 21 Golf Croquet Championships to be held in Melbourne in February 2017 a development squad has been formed with seven young players receiving extra coaching and mentoring. Charlie Sharpe (Killara), Jamie Gumbrell (Canberra) and Lana Sexton (Manly) are members of this squad. They have also been encouraged to gain as much competition experience as possible.

The recent Croquet NSW Junior Golf Croquet Championships were held at Tempe on Friday and Saturday 8/9th July. There were six entries playing a best-of-three round robin. I was really pleased to see two new faces – Bill and Roy Nelson from Cammeray.

The results were as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------|
| 1. Jack Williams | Victoria |
| 2. Lana Sexton | Manly |
| 3. Jamie Gumbrell | Canberra |
| 4. Anthony Dask | Victoria |
| 5. Roy Nelson | Cammeray |
| 6. Bill Nelson | Cammeray |

At the conclusion of the competition the members of the ACA (Junior) Development Squad were given a coaching session conducted by Alix Verge, Peter Landrebe and Barb Piggott. My sincere thanks go to them.

Jacky McDonald - CNSW Coordinator of Junior Croquet

Website Administrator

The current CNSW website continues to adapt to meet the expectations of a changing world. Among many changes, this year has seen the addition of:

- CNSW Delegate to club details.
- several AC/GC/Ricochet/Gateball Coach/Referee member qualifications.
- current AC/GC/Ricochet/Gateball Coach/Referee qualifications to the public Coaching and Refereeing pages.
- the ability by some CNSW users to copy/paste Yearbook pages.
- a Yearbook statistics charts to the clubs page.
- database of croquet codes played (AC, GC, Ricochet, Gateball) for members and for clubs. Club secretaries have been requested to sign in and enter this information for their club, and for each of their members; this process is by no means yet completed. Codes played are displayed for each club in the public Clubs pages, and for clubs and members in the online Yearbook.

Future website plans that have been discussed this year include:

- a new professionally designed home page, above the current News home page, which would be more attractive to the casual visitor and improve the image of croquet in NSW.
- a new version of the website Shop page, to provide for online ordering by signed in users. A prototype for this has been developed, in which item quantities would be entered and a Submit button pressed, which would email

an invoice to the user, with copy to the CNSW office for shipping. The simplicity of this scheme relies upon postage being built into item prices.

- maintenance of the Handicaps page. Previously, at infrequent intervals the State Handicapper supplied a handicaps spreadsheet to the website administrator, who updated the handicaps pages. Now, the database application includes a handicap administration function for use by the State Handicapper to update member handicaps immediately, but this is not being used. A proposal that approved tournament managers might update handicaps at the conclusion of events has been discussed, as has a proposal that clubs themselves might maintain the handicaps of their members. The latter, in conjunction with checks that prevent the change of handicaps recently updated by tournament managers, would allow clubs to maintain the handicaps of members who do not play externally, thus avoiding the current need for clubs to separately maintain handicaps for such members.
- whether the current CNSW event results pages, containing scores and reports, should continue to be published, in light of the use of the croquetscores.com website. There is a case for continuing our responsibility for retaining and publishing CNSW event results ourselves, however it is preferable to avoid the double-entry of results. One solution would be the provision by croquetscores.com of the means to export results, as spreadsheets or using a web service, for use by its participating organisations, but this is outside our control.
- rationalisation of the media used to publish croquet news articles. Currently these are variously published on the CNSW website home page and club news and results pages; in the CNSW Newsletter; and in the CNSW Facebook page. Using social media places the onus and effort of creating content upon the individual, whereas considerable effort on the part of the website administrator and newsletter editor is required for the other two methods.

It is to be hoped that these future plans can be discussed further in the coming year.

David Archer – CNSW Website Administrator

State Handicapper

Not much changed this year in this area.

In GC, people are still confused about the doubles handicapping system and many clubs have hosts of split personalities playing for them who have two handicaps (one for club play and one for external competitions) (I'm not fishing for an argument as I have had very lucid explanations about both side of this debate dealt to me, so please don't take this thread any further).

Well things ARE going to change early next year. We have a brand new handicapping arrangement about to be introduced. The ACA have adopted a model put to it from the UK which was trialled in 2015 and introduced in 2016 with great success. It could well be implemented in 2017. The pros and cons of this move will undoubtedly experience great scrutiny by all of us. Basically the change-over will require a lot of cooperation by just about everyone who plays croquet and from what I have seen, we are excellent at that. If that continues the change should be smooth and worry free.

In AC, it is very much steady as she goes.

Croquet is a great sport, especially for we seniors as it give opportunities for physical, social and mental stimulation. The first two get lots of attention. Try organising handicap matches during club play to get the grey matter stirred up. It offers a whole new concept for some. Try it.

Peter Smith.

Director - Ricochet Liaison

I have been very privileged to be the Director Responsible for Ricochet this year. When Croquet NSW (CNSW) moved to a Board structure late last year each Director was asked to be responsible for a code of Croquet. I happily put my hand up for Ricochet. It's been a great 10 months. It has also been decided to hold a CNSW sanctioned event on the 19/20th November this year as the first of many to come.

Many clubs around the state advised me they already played Ricochet & where really pleased that CNSW was now promoting this code of Croquet. Many other clubs requested some coaching to improve their standard of play. My heartfelt thanks must go to

Margaret-Rose & Tommy Thompson (Nelson Bay), for their continued support to deliver coaching on both tactics & the rules of Ricochet to clubs around the state – ***thankyou.***

With Margaret-Rose' encouragement CNSW now has 6 qualified Referees & 1 Examining Referee. The Referees are from Branxton, Nelson Bay, Newcastle National Park, Nowra & Toronto. Thankyou to these players for committing to improve the standard of play for Ricochet in NSW.

Recently Nowra CC hosted a Ricochet weekend with 9 pairs playing. It was very noticeable how the standard of play improved from the first game Saturday morning to the last game Sunday afternoon. A great effort from all involved. This bodes well for Ricochet in the future. Between now & the CNSW event in November Maitland CC & "The Makara" are holding competitions, which I'm sure will be well attended.

I will not be standing for re-election at the AGM so wish the incoming Director Responsible for Ricochet every success in the coming years.

And finally – thankyou to every player playing Ricochet – it's a great game!!

Brenda Wild (Director Responsible for Ricochet)

Report from NSW Gateball

Gateball continues to be enjoyed in many clubs around the state. Three clubs have run successful weekend carnivals throughout the past year - Lithgow, Jamberoo and Newcastle. Newcastle, Maitland & EDSACC also played a "Triathlon" which included gateball, ricochet & golf croquet. Urunga have also expressed an interest in learning the game.

NSW were represented at the Australian Gateball 2015 Championships with 4 teams - 1 team making the semi-finals. The Victorian 2016 Championships saw 3 teams from NSW compete - gained a 2nd and 3rd placing. The Queensland 2015 Championships were won by a team from Canberra. NSW is still proving to be very competitive.

The 2016 NSW Gateball Championships will be held in December at Newcastle and already we have had contact from China - Zhejiang Senior Sports Association & Zhejiang Gateball Association - indicating they will be entering 4 to 6 teams. We did apply for a grant from Newcastle City Council to help host this event but unfortunately we were not successful.

We have been contacted by a travel agent from Sunland Holidays requesting a group of 60 gateball players from Guangdong Province in China to play one day while they are on holidays here in August - this is too many for any one club here and we feel that if more Sydney clubs participated in playing Gateball this tourism could prove a valuable addition to clubs - 60 could be divided into groups of 20 and play at various Sydney clubs - playing gateball, golf croquet, g-ball and even ricochet in a gala day format. Our only suggestion to them was that they would have to split up and play at Canberra, Lithgow or Newcastle - this isn't viable for them. So, again we ask, can Tempe hold a "come and try" Gateball day one Sunday to see if we can get more Sydney clubs interested in playing.

Judy Squelch & Kerrie Sutherland NSW Co-Chairs Gateball