



# CROQUET NSW



## ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

Supported by the



Alison Sharpe and Alix Verge

Runner Up and Winner of the  
Australian Women's Single AC Championship



This Annual Report has been produced by Mr Stephen Thornton,  
Director - Secretary and Public Officer, Croquet NSW Inc.



# CROQUET NSW Inc

ABN 95 174 213 987

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

## Location

Mackey Park  
Tempe NSW 2044

Telephone (02) 9559 6073

## Postal address

Croquet NSW Inc.  
P.O. Box 5096  
Marrickville NSW 1475

Website [www.croquet-nsw.org](http://www.croquet-nsw.org)

<b>CNSW MEMBERSHIP SNAPSHOT</b>		
	<b><i>Affiliated Clubs</i></b>	<b><i>Affiliated Members</i></b>
31 July 2015	69	2976 (2125 Country 851 Metro)
31 July 2016	69	3152 (2307 Country 845 Metro)
31 July 2017	70	3059 (2186 Country 873 Sydney N&S)

During the year, one club transferred its affiliation to Victoria, one club did not continue their affiliation to CNSW and three clubs became affiliated with CNSW.



## THE BOARD

Chair	Mr Peter Coles
Director - Treasurer	Mr John Eddes
Director - Secretary	Mr Steve Thornton
Director - AC Liaison	Mr Jim Nicholls
Director - GC Liaison	Mr John Compton
Director	Ms Tricia Vierra
Director	Mr John Levick (Resigned June 2017)

## ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board held 9 meetings between the 2016 AGM and the end of July 2017 at a variety of venues. Attendance of Directors is tabulated below:

	In Person	Via Skype
Mr Peter Coles	9	
Mr John Eddes	8	
Mr Steve Thornton	9	
Mr Jim Nicholls	2	7
Mr John Compton	6	2
Ms Tricia Vierra	8	1
Mr John Levick (Resigned June 2017)	7	



## From the Chair of the CNSW Board

It gives me considerable pleasure to report that 2016-2017 has been a year of seeing CNSW on the go. Much has been achieved.

- The Tempe facilities have been refurbished and look most respectable.
- Many club originated Certificates of Appreciation have been sent from the Board to Clubs. This avenue of expression of appreciation is gaining momentum and feedback of appreciation from recipients confirms Certificates of Appreciation are well received.
- Regionalisation is well on the way and will swing into effect in the next few months. The benefits of communication to clubs through Regional Coordinators will create a communication pathway to appropriate members of Clubs not experienced by CNSW to this time. Communicating with targeted officers in Clubs will be so much easier.
- A successful application for a sizable grant resulted in GC coaching courses and a train the trainer program conducted by Pam Gentle. This program is gaining momentum and Pam is establishing network of train the trainers throughout the State.
- Association Croquet continues to improve with all officials now meeting the AC standards throughout the State. The number of trained and qualified referees and umpires has reached a commendable level, all having participated in Courses within the past eighteen months. Participation in the Association Croquet discipline is increasing which bodes well for the future of this section of our wonderful sport.
- Bev Smiths GC Rules courses have generated unprecedented demand and I take this opportunity to congratulate Bev on her dedication to this program. CNSW is also indebted to Bev for the ever willingness to provide refereeing services in major State events.
- The development of younger Croquet players is meeting continued success in the hands of Jacky McDonald. Jacky is exploring involvement in schools and universities and continues to develop the skills and competition experience of our younger State Team members.
- The first of many meetings of the Directors of the various Committees and portfolios was held in June. This resulting in the establishment of the 'Family of CNSW', listening, suggesting and offering encouragement. A great deal was learnt about the diversity of portfolio's making up the functioning body of CNSW and many constructive suggestions and offers of help were made.



Thanks so much to each attendee for your ready participation in this most important aspect of CNSW. We look forward to the next meeting in November.

Congratulations to the state teams participating in the Australian Championships in Association Croquet, Golf Croquet and Gateball. The position of New South Wales is improving in all disciplines. The future look bright.

I would like to express the Boards appreciation to the many members of CNSW who have volunteered their time and expertise in planning, managing, refereeing and conducting the many events during the year. I never cease to be amazed at the number and diversity of events and how smoothly they are run. And a special thank you to those members responsible for the preparation of lawns upon which the events are held. All facilities have been exemplary and have been a delight to see and to play on. Once again, thank you so much.

Administratively the year has not been without its problems which have been handled particularly well. I am sure CNSW's new board members will establish a new and fresh approach to the conducting of the business of CNSW and will ensure a continuance of achievement of the aims of your Board in the coming years.

Peter Coles

### **From the CNSW Secretary**

This year has seen further progress in moving some of the responsibility for administration of CNSW and the sport to the clubs. No excuse is made for doing this as CNSW is run by volunteers and needs to service more than 70 clubs. I can only applaud the Club Secretaries who now maintain the club details and membership information via the database with very few problems – they can be assured that it is secure as CNSW has purchased the necessary security upgrade (the website now says <https://>).

There are ongoing debates about the content of the yearbook, how much should be on-line, how much should be in hard copy, how do we comply with modern privacy concerns, and more. This will be resolved over the next few months.



## Financial Report

This year there was a deficit of \$4400 from General Operations and a surplus of \$21300 from Investment Activities giving an overall surplus of \$16900. These figures were very similar to the previous year.

The small deficit in General Operations was expected as expenses included \$6000 for the bathroom renovations.

Income was down slightly by \$1500 with the main components being an increase in affiliation fees of \$2100 due to increased membership offset by a reduction in income from coaching of \$2500 as that aspect of our activities underwent reorganisation.

Expenditure was down by \$1600 with the two main differences being a reduction in Wages and Superannuation of \$13100 as there was no employee, offset by an increase in repairs and maintenance of \$8500 due to the bathroom renovations of \$6000 and repairs to the irrigation system of \$3900.

The investments continued to perform well with both income and increase in value matching last years numbers. Two of these investments matured in late June as indicated on the Balance Sheet and we will be seeking to reinvest these proceeds.

During the year CNSW applied for grants from the NSW Office of Sport and was successful in two of the applications. We received \$11000 for a coaching accreditation program managed by the State Director of Coaching, Pam Gentle and this program has commenced. We also received \$11000 for the hosting of the 2018 Australian Golf Croquet Championships in September 2018 and expenditure on this project is yet to commence.

Details of these two grants are shown separately at the bottom of the Income and Expenditure Statement.

*John Eddes - Treasurer*



**CROQUET NSW INCORPORATED**  
**STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

<b>GENERAL OPERATIONS</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Affiliation fees	130733.50	128602.50
Tournament entry fees	13130.00	13865.00
Dept of Sport & Recreation grant	16500.00	16500.00
Interest received	525.39	1315.09
Profit on sales	404.20	328.07
	Merchandise	
	Other sales	0.00
Revenue from	855.00	3345.00
	Coaching	
	Referee instruction	320.00
	70.00	
	Use of HQ lawns & equipment	720.10
	331.75	
	Sponsorship	1000.00
	1000.00	
Public liability insurance levies	10575.00	10794.33
Sundry income	120.50	14.15
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>174883.69</b>	<b>176320.89</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Affiliation fees paid to Croquet Aust	77237.50	77062.50
Tournament entry fees paid to Croquet Aust	1610.00	1680.00
Lawn maintenance	29188.20	25980.64
Administration expenses	0.00	13133.50
	Wages and Superannuation	
	Stationery	658.34
	641.94	
	Postage	2466.45
	1626.01	
	Telephone	413.57
	502.40	
	Computer expenses	2164.07
	809.08	
	IT fees	2500.00
	3500.00	
	Printing	965.90
	1022.50	
	Insurance	943.61
	823.13	
Expenditure on	3293.98	3489.02
	Coaching	
	Refereeing	1825.75
	381.75	
	Lawn hire fees to clubs	3768.00
	3495.00	
	Travel - Board	1477.23
	896.98	
	Travel - Other	1946.15
	2018.00	
	Newsletter	4195.40
	3577.20	
	Year books (net)	595.10
	1003.90	
	State team	13727.83
	14013.72	
	Schools development grants	371.75
	2869.95	
	Publicity	300.40
	1405.70	
	Presentation day (Net)	416.80
	177.00	
	Trophies	2144.57
	1253.89	
	Catering & Housekeeping (net)	800.54
	311.84	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>153011.14</b>
	<b>161675.65</b>	





**CROQUET NSW INCORPORATED**  
**STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017 (Continued)**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>153011.14</b>	<b>161675.65</b>
New equipment	403.70	575.34
Public liability insurance	10734.44	10790.35
Repairs and maintenance	10274.75	1797.35
HQ overheads; lease & cleaning	386.30	536.30
National Champs 2021 provision	500.00	500.00
Net GST expense	2082.00	3367.00
Depreciation	1267.00	1207.50
Write off assets	480.00	0.00
Sundry expenses	108.82	412.94
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>179248.15</b>	<b>180862.43</b>
<b>Surplus (Loss) on General Operations</b>	<b>(4,364.46)</b>	<b>(4,541.54)</b>
<b>INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES</b>		
Interest & Distributions	15661.92	15009.10
Movement in value	5642.54	5657.47
<b>Surplus on Investment Activities</b>	<b>21304.46</b>	<b>20666.57</b>
<b>Total Surplus on consolidated activities</b>	<b>16940.00</b>	<b>16125.03</b>
<b>SPECIAL PROJECTS</b>		
Coaching Accreditation	NSW Office of Sport Grant	11,000.00
	Less Expenses	
	GST	1,000.00
	Travel	255.25
	Accommodation	499.22
	Printing	557.46
	Lawn Hire to clubs	120.00
	<b>Balance at 30 June 2017</b>	<b>8,568.07</b>
2018 GC Interstate Shield Hosting	NSW Office of Sport Grant	11,000.00
	Less Expenses	
	GST	1,000.00
	<b>Balance at 30 June 2017</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>

**CROQUET NSW INCORPORATED**  
**Balance Sheet at 30 June 2017**

	2017	2016
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash on Hand		
Commonwealth Bank - cheque account	26,184	11,022
Commonwealth Bank - cash invest account	84,024	10,057
Quay credit union - term deposits	216,834	209,581
	<u>327,042</u>	<u>230,660</u>
Accounts Receivable and other debtors		
Sundry Debtors	787	1,273
Accrued interest to 30 June 2017	1,717	3,065
Stock on hand at cost	675	780
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>330,221</u>	<u>235,778</u>
<b>Non current assets</b>		
Investments		
Australian Unity Healthcare Property Trust	66,691	58,428
Cromwell Direct Property Trust	36,994	32,980
ANZ Subordinated Notes	0	29,319
NAB Subordinated Notes	0	39,035
Total investments	<u>103,684</u>	<u>159,762</u>
Equipment		
at written down value	5,077	7,144
Pre payments	977	0
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>109,739</u>	<u>166,906</u>
<b>Total assets</b>	<u>439,960</u>	<u>402,684</u>
Less		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Sundry Creditors	3,758	4,805
Affiliation & entry fees paid in advance	3,503	1,188
2021 AC National Champs hosting provision	1,000	500
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>8,261</u>	<u>6,493</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>431,699</u>	<u>396,191</u>
<b>General funds</b>		
As at 1 July 2016	77,048	81,590
Surplus (Loss) from general operations	<u>(4,364)</u>	<u>(4,542)</u>
Balance as at 30 June 2017	<u>72,684</u>	<u>77,048</u>
<b>Special Funds</b>		
HQ/Building fund		
As at 1 July 2016	319,143	298,476
Surplus from investment activities	21,304	20,667
Balance as at 30 June 2017	<u>340,447</u>	<u>319,143</u>
NSW Office of Sport Project Grants		
Balances as at 30 June 2017		
Coaching Accreditation Grant	8,568	
2018 GC Interstate Shield Hosting	10,000	
<b>Total Funds at 30 June 2017</b>	<u>431,699</u>	<u>396,191</u>



## Significant Results and Achievements by Players and Teams during 2016-17

### Significant Achievements

Australian Women's Single AC Championship	Winner – Alix Verge Runner Up – Alison Sharpe
No1 World Ranked Woman AC Player	Alison Sharpe

### Singles Events in Chronological Order

	Winner
NSW Open Men's Singles Championship (AC)	Peter Landrebe
NSW Junior Championship (GC)	Charlie Sharpe
NSW Open Singles Championship (GC)	Alix Verge
NSW Open Doubles (AC)	Claire Bassett & Nick Chapman
NSW Open Singles Championship (AC)	Alan Walsh
NSW Men's Singles Championship (GC)	John Hastings
NSW Womens Singles Championship (GC)	Margaret Sawer
NSW Open Men's Singles Championship (AC)	Peter Landrebe
NSW Open Doubles (GC)	David Hanbidge and John Levick

### Pennants Events in Chronological Order

	Winners
AC Pennants	Cammeray B
GC Division 1 Pennants	Maitland
GC Division 2 Pennants	Canberra
GC Division 3 Pennants	Manly

### Gateball Championships

	Winner(s)
Pairs	Terumi Kitaura & Yoshiaki Kitaura
Teams	Japan



## Report from the Newsletter Editor

At a recent meeting for Croquet NSW Board Members with CNSW Appointed Officers, each of us was asked to say what our role was. For me as Editor of the Newsletter, I responded: To collect, collate and prepare for publication items of interest to the clubs affiliated with Croquet NSW. In other words, the Newsletter is very much dependent on what clubs or individuals might send in for publication. I endeavour to include all material sent, even increasing the number of pages if necessary. However, sadly, there are still some clubs from whom we receive no information, even if it is to tell us that they are still enjoying their croquet, which we hope is the case.

Special mention, then, needs to be made of those clubs whose articles have filled the pages of the past year's issues: Bathurst, Ballina, Coutts Crossing, Eastwood, Forster, Holroyd, Iluka, Lismore, Lithgow, Macquarie City, Northern Rivers Association, Nowra, Orange, Port Hacking, Port Macquarie, Manly, Marrickville, Mosman, Nelson Bay, Newcastle, Nowra, Sawtell, Smithtown, Strathfield, Sutherland and Toronto.

There were reports on Coaching Courses, GC Referees, Ricochet Coaching, a Gateball demonstration at Tempe, Celebrations of Australia Day and World Croquet Day, and matters relating to Regionalisation. Neil Hardie's AC Coaching tips are well received. The first Ricochet Doubles competition was reported as well as the GC Worlds, and the recent success of the Australian Team in the MacRobertson Shield event as well as the efforts of our Eire Cup representatives. Various State competitions fill some pages, with varying degrees of comment depending on the availability of a manager for the event. Player profiles have been interesting. Getting to know Board members a little better through their profiles has helped remove the "faceless people" comment. (A couple have not responded but I shall refrain from naming and shaming them!)

Newsletter preparation is an interesting task, but one which takes time and in some cases requires skills that are a bit beyond my capabilities. I have asked to be replaced as Editor, so far to no avail, and I shall continue till someone else puts up his or her hand. At the meeting with the Board recently, we were also asked this question: **What help would I like from the board?** - My response: *Possibly to find someone who is better qualified, more skilled than I am to carry the Newsletter forward. I can see that if Regionalisation takes off, the Newsletter could be a good*



*tool for keeping each region involved in what the other regions are doing. We now live in a world of “instant” news so how can the Newsletter be better placed in to that need for instant communication?*

Thank you for all the contributions.

*Wendy Fothergill*

## **Report from the NSW State Coaching Coordinator**

Since taking over the job of CNSW Coaching Coordinator in February, there have been 79 new Level 1 Foundation coaches accredited under the new ACA Coach Accreditation course, which has been approved by the Australian Sports Council.

Courses have been run in Sydney, the Hunter area, Jamberoo, Wagga and the Northern Rivers by Greg Whymark, the National Coaching Director, Lynda Davis, the Croquet Queensland Coaching Coordinator (in the Northern Rivers region), Jacky McDonald, John Park and myself.

Total numbers of coaches in the individual codes are: Golf Croquet 67, Association Croquet 39, Ricochet 47 and Gateball 8. 32 of our NSW clubs now have coaches accredited under the new system. It would be wonderful if every one of our clubs had an accredited coach!

I would like to thank all those who have volunteered their time and energy into becoming coaches and helping to improve the skills of their players.

*Pam Gentle*

## **Report from the SD Refereeing - Association Croquet**

This past year we have been concentrating on the Sydney region as this is where most of the CNSW tournaments are held. In this period five umpires and one referee have qualified, so we now have twelve referees and eight umpires in Sydney. This should be enough to provide officials to all the lower-grade CNSW tournaments without over-working anyone. Referees and umpires have been supplied to all the bronze, silver, gold and handicap events. There are enough



referees and umpires among the elite players for their tournaments to be self-refereed.

In NSW we now have 31 referees and 25 umpires. The deadline for meeting the ACA re-accreditation rules has now passed, so all these officials meet this standard. Examining referees are available in various parts of NSW, and these excellent people have been conducting training and examinations very successfully.

A number of articles related to refereeing have been put on the CNSW website (thanks to David Archer) and a series of articles on the laws of AC croquet have been published in the CNSW newsletter.

In the coming year we hope to provide more support for the country clubs where AC is played.

*Neil Hardie*

### **Report from the Membership/Records Officer**

2016/17 has been a good year for CNSW. CNSW has welcomed 3 new clubs to the fold – Smithtown, Nambucca Valley & Iluka. This takes our club numbers to 71. Both clubs are on the far north coast of NSW. This area of NSW is growing quickly with 15 of our 71 clubs situated there. Unfortunately Walla Walla has decided to affiliate through Victoria as they compete in regional Victorian events. Sad to see them go but wish them well.

As at 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2017, our membership stands at 3204 with the trend of previous years continuing - 2/3 are from country NSW and 1/3 are from the Sydney area. Five clubs have memberships over 100 (Canberra, EDSACC, Mosman, Sawtell & Forster) with Forster still holding onto the title of the largest club in NSW – well done.

A big thank you to all club secretaries who have updated their members details on the Database (DB). A number of requests over the preceding 2 years have been sent to club secretaries but unfortunately there are still clubs (approx. 50%) who are to complete this request. Dates of Birth are necessary for CNSW to apply for government grants and email addresses will help with communication from CNSW directly to individual members. So again, please, club secretaries



could you update the DB as matter of urgency. If you have any concerns please don't hesitate to contact me either by email or phone. Both details can be found on the website.

*Brenda Wild*

## **Report from Gateball NSW**

It has been pleasing to see new players at all the Gateball carnivals over the past year. Three clubs have run successful weekend carnivals throughout the past year - Lithgow, Jamberoo and Newcastle. Newcastle also hosted the very successful 2016 NSW Championships last December. Twelve teams competed in the team events - Japan (Winners), Kew (Runners Up), Canberra (Third), Lithgow, Newcastle Belles, Newcastle White Knights, Redcliffe Roses, Jamberoo Blue Wrens, Green Door, Jamberoo White Ibis, Epstars/Japan and EDSACC Rollers. 18 pairs competed in the pairs event with Terumi Higashi & Yoshiaki Kitaura winning the final 14/12 against playing Glen Whitehead and Tony Hall.

October will see the Australian Championships played at EDSACC with already entries coming in including a new club - Toronto competing. At the end of this event we are both standing down as Co-chairs Gateball.

*Judy Squelch and Kerrie Sutherland*

## **Coordinator of Junior Croquet**

In the past twelve months I am aware that the following clubs have been involved with school croquet – Toronto, Blue Mountains, Strathfield and Woolgoolga. My sincere thanks to the members of those clubs who have given their time to encourage young players. Hopefully these students will have enjoyed their experience enough to return to the sport at a later date.

CNSW now has fourteen junior members. Blue Mountains 1, Canberra 1, Cammeray 2, Coutts Crossing 2, Killara 1, Manly 1, Mosman 1, Queenbeyan 2, Walla Walla 1 and Woolgoolga 1.

In preparation for the World Under 21 Golf Croquet Championships which were held in Melbourne in February this year Charlie Sharpe (Killara), Jamie Gumbrell



(Canberra) and Lana Sexton (Manly) were members of the ACA Development squad. They attended several coaching sessions conducted by Terry Ericson (Qld) and competed in the Australian and New Zealand Under 21 GC Championships.

I attended the World Under 21 GC Championships in February and was most impressed with the attitude, ability and commitment of all the competitors. The countries represented were New Zealand 17, Australia 6, Egypt 4 and USA 1. The New Zealand players certainly showed us in Australia just how successful school croquet and the influence of family can be.

All clubs were informed of a Junior Croquet Day to be held at Tempe in the April and July school holidays. There were ten in attendance in April but only two in July. Those attending enjoyed various croquet activities and played a short game. I would like to be able to do the same thing in the regions.

The recent CNSW Junior Golf Croquet Championships were held at Tempe on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July. There were only five entries. Thank you to Charlie and Simon Sharpe and Jamie Gumbrell for taking a break from their Year 12 studies. I was really pleased to see two new faces, Stacie Mackin from Blue Mountains and Ethan Gumbrell from Canberra. Both certainly displayed potential and I hope to see more of them. The results were as follows:

1. Charlie Sharpe - Killara
2. Jamie Gumbrell - Canberra
3. Simon Sharpe
4. Stacie Mackin - Blue Mountains
5. Ethan Gumbrell

*Jacky McDonald*

### **Report from the SD Refereeing - Golf Croquet**

The year 2016/17 has seen many Golf Croquet Referees officiate at Club, State, National, and International, events. The highlight of the year, for many, was to referee at the World Championships held in Melbourne during February. Eight referees from NSW enjoyed this experience, however all found it rather frustrating, as only the Semi Finals and Finals had a referee in charge all other matches had referees on call. Thank you for volunteering your expertise for this World event.





It has been most rewarding to have assessed and presented 10 new Referees with their Badges of Office. Congratulations, well done everyone. Thank you to Peter Smith for his assistance as second Examining Referee. There are also 11 other players who are almost ready to be assessed, thank you for your interest in the refereeing of Golf Croquet.

Throughout the year I have enjoyed visits to Ballina Cherry Street, Coogee, Orange, Sutherland and Sydney Croquet Clubs, where I conducted workshops for their members, bringing them up to date with GC rules and Rulings as well as on court refereeing techniques, these visits proved to be most beneficial to the members of all clubs.

July 31<sup>st</sup> is re-accreditation time for all NSW Golf Croquet Referees. The Blue Record Cards are filed as a record of your level of involvement as a Referee. All practicing Golf Croquet Referees are required to have completed the ASC on-line Assessment "Introductory Level Officiating General Principles". A copy of the Certificate issued on completion of this course is to be sent to me. If you have not completed this assessment and forwarded a copy of the Certificate your name will not be listed in the CNSW Year Book as a Qualified Referee.

Refereeing is a very tiring but extremely necessary part of Golf Croquet. My sincere thanks to all the active referees for the great job you have done this year to help make the many tournaments held, successful. Thank you to CNSW for your continued support of my role as GC State Director Refereeing, I am looking forward to a busy year ahead.

*Bev Smith*

### **Ricochet Development Officer**

After the AGM in 2016 the Board of CNSW appointed me as the Ricochet Development Officer to continue my work from being Director - Ricochet Liaison. During the year a new rules book was published by Croquet Queensland. The new book expanded the explanation of the current rules.

A huge thankyou to Margaret-Rose and Tommy Thompson for their continued work in delivering coaching on both the rules and tactics of this great game. NSW



now has 15 referees spread around the state with many more coaches now qualified.

The running of the first CNSW Ricochet event held at Tempe in November 2016 was a success with 6 pairs entered in the Doubles event. The event was won by the Nowra pairing of Margaret Sawers and Glyn Williams – well done & congratulations.

A NSW specific handicap card is being prepared with many discussions being held around the process of allocating initial handicaps for Ricochet. We must remember that once competitions are held players' handicaps will eventually be sorted out. We also intend to use the card for both singles & doubles events to achieve a more accurate handicap for every player.

Many thanks to every Ricochet player for making this an enjoyable year.

*Brenda Wild*

## **Report from CNSW Website Administrator**

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

Junior member support, Working With Children qualification, New member search, Handicap index support, Ricochet handicaps, Club competitions and inter-club events, Individual member sign in

Special thanks are due to Gareth Denyer as State Handicapper for his support in bringing the maintenance of handicaps and indexes to a whole new level.

The following website activity occurred in 2016 and 2017:

Page content changes:

- News: 34 general, 20 governance, 3 coaching, 2 refereeing, 3 handicapping.
- CNSW events: 36 results, 6 news items
- Club News: 14 news items, 6 club results, 2 club histories
- Other pages: 3 contact, 3 downloads, 2 shop, 1 equipment, 1 links, 1 home

Database events:

- 1907 sign ins by 69 clubs
- 365 sign ins by 42 individual members (since 6th May 2017)
- 673 sign ins by CNSW officials



- 3 clubs added, 1 club deleted, 168 club details updated
- 189 events added, 15 events deleted, 345 event details updated
- 628 members added, 546 members deleted, 5768 member details updated
- 8 sign in accounts added, 5 accounts deleted, 62 account details updated
- 1598 handicap changes logged (since 5th April 2017)

Future website plans include:

- Online CNSW event registration, to commence for 2018 events.
- A database index to news items, to provide for indexing, searching, and individual news item referencing (e.g. from social media).
- 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. To this end, a very worthwhile exercise has been conducted with Roberta Flint; the appointment of a professional graphic designer has been proposed to the Board; and at a meeting of the Board and appointed officers in May, Tricia Vierra has agreed to take this further.
- Club secretaries are asked to ensure that their members have email addresses in the database, so that they can sign in to register for CNSW events, and to maintain their contact details, handicaps and indexes.

*David Archer*

## **State Handicapper's Report**

Of the ~3,200 individual players affiliated with CNSW, about ~50% have a GC handicap, ~20% have an AC handicap, but <1% have formally recorded their RC handicap. However, it is obvious that much of the data is out of date or incomplete. Thus a goal for this coming year is to ensure that we capture all the competition-active players' handicaps and remove in-active, legacy numbers.

One significant event this last year was the April transition to the new GC handicap system. About 80% of GC players with a handicap have updated, and all new or edited database entries are checked for compliance. The proportion of members making the transition is strongly club-dependent, with the more proactive clubs having nearly 100% movement to the new system, but others almost devoid of uptake. Clearly club secretaries have a huge role in either entering data or encouraging members to do so.

This brings us to the second major change this year; moving towards self-recording of handicaps in the central CNSW database. Instead of relying on the State



Handicapper to enter the post-tournament submissions (which arrive in variable quality, format and timing), the idea is to self-empower members and expect them to keep their data up to date. Again, club secretaries have an important role to play in helping us communicate this change and also in ensuring that members' email addresses are on the central database.

As the central database captures the up-to-date handicaps of more and more members, it starts to become possible to use the information in creative ways – for example, increasing the number of events available for particular handicap ranges, or focusing coaching efforts.

*Gareth Denyer*

## **Tournament Committee Report**

The Tournament Committee for the 2016-17 year has had six members: David Stanton (Cammeray, Chairman), Peter Montague (Killara, Secretary), John Eddes (Sutherland), Lorraine Hatfield (Port Hacking), Mike Hughes (Cammeray) and Robyn Compton (Maitland).

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. The task of setting an events calendar for 2018 has just commenced.

As part of the process of establishing the programme 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 2017, and at the moment we have 14 pairs entered for the event, which will be held at Nelson Bay at the end of August. The AC Fransted Trophy event has been resurrected this year, albeit with only four participants.



On a brighter note, a concerted effort was made this year to reinvigorate the State Handicap event, the Beryl Chambers Memorial Trophy. Many thanks to Roberta Flint who took on the task of contacting people in various country and metropolitan centres, encouraging them to arrange local qualifying events. Altogether about 50 players took part across NSW, with a final field of 11 playing the final series at Tempe in June.

We introduced an AC Alternate Stroke Doubles event in 2015, which nobody entered in either 2015 or 2016! It is scheduled again for this year, but the weekend set aside for it is likely to be used for a deferred women's AC event, either the Open Women's Singles or the Eva Short Invitation.

The Open Men's Singles this year attracted only 8 entries, down from 20 in 2016, and the Open Women's Singles attracted only one entry. This event was not run in 2016 due to lack of numbers, and we are hoping to reschedule it for later in the year, after determining a date on which most of the top women players are available. My aim is to make the three top Open AC events (Open Singles, Open Men's Singles and Open Women's Singles) attractive to all the top players in NSW, and to top players from other states.

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 2018. 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.

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 2018 is getting more players trained in tournament management so that the load can be shared.

For the past few years, 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. However, Nick has been disappointed that CNSW is the only regular user of this website, and has decided to not continue to support it after the end of 2018. The CNSW Webs Administrator, David Archer, has undertaken to implement a replacement tournament entry system on the CNSW website in plenty of time to handle entries to all CNSW



events in 2018, and members of the Tournament Committee will be closely involved with him in testing this application.

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. For CNSW events, scores are also recorded spreadsheets showing all games played, and a grid showing all game results. These results are stored in the recently-created DropBox, and also on the CNSW computer at Tempe. Copies are sent to the Website Administrator and the Newsletter editor for recording.

The Tournament Committee is also responsible for the running of Pennants competitions for both AC and GC. GC Pennants attract a large number of entries in Divisions 2 and 3, such that matches are played in four 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 4 teams in each of Bronze and Silver divisions in 2017, one team in Gold and two teams in Premier division. It would be great to see more clubs from outside Sydney taking part.

*David Stanton*

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