



CROQUET
NEW SOUTH WALES

2023

Annual Report



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Croquet NSW acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands of NSW on which we play, present and emerging.

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CNSW Patron

Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales.

From The Board

Croquet playing in NSW continues to grow! The number of players across the State is now 3,288 affiliated players in 70 Clubs. This is an increase of 5% from last year's figure of 3,122, and a total increase of 9.5% since 2021. Around two thirds of the NSW members play in regional NSW, and around two thirds of the membership is female. Membership increase is largely due to Clubs building their membership, so we thank those clubs that have joined us, and have added new members. CNSW Board members are currently trialling a project to further empower and resource clubs in their membership building activities.

New South Wales performed strongly in competitions: winning the national Association Croquet contest: the **Eire Cup** in Melbourne from Victoria and winning the national Golf Croquet title: the **ISS Shield** in Perth from Western Australia. Both contests were hard fought and came down to the wire, indicating a healthy level of competition nationally.

A number of NSW players represented Australia: Kerri-Ann Organ and Alison Sharpe at the AC Women's World Championships in New Zealand in January, with Alison Sharpe reaching the semi-finals; Jamie Gumbrell, Kate McLoughlin, Pamela Barnwell, Gerda Lambeck at the GC Women's World Championships, Sussex, England. And we are very proud to have a world champion, as Jamie Gumbrell won the women's World Championship! NSW players: Peter Landrebe, Peter Freer, Kevin McGlynn, Derek Bull, Mark Scruton, Kate McLoughlin, Mark Scruton represented Australia at the Over Fifties World Championship in Bunbury, Western Australia in October.

The Club Hubs have continued to offer coaching programs, build new members, and run competitions. Club Hubs have been funded through the Office of Sport post Covid funding to promote the development of croquet, increasing skills and access to competition in their region. The Club Hubs in 2023 were: Canberra Croquet Club, Strathfield Croquet Club, Toronto Croquet Club, Port Macquarie Croquet Club, Coutts Crossing Croquet Club, and the addition of Nowra Croquet Club. Port Macquarie has subsequently stepped down from the role, and their contribution will be missed. The funding needs have been less than expected, so the 2-year funding will continue to support the program through 2024. More Hubs will be sought to increase the range of this program.

Croquet NSW ran 47 events in 2023: 18 were held at NSW State HQ, Mackey Park, Tempe, and the remaining were held at Clubs around the State: 14 at Regional Clubs (including Canberra) and 15 at Sydney Clubs. There were 24 Association Croquet events, 18 Golf Croquet events and 4 Ricochet events and 1 Gateball event held. The Golf Croquet Pennants competition held between Clubs and the three Divisional finals were in addition to these events. The Pennants event has increased in popularity with over 300 players entering across the 3 Divisions. Thanks to Lorraine Hatfield who organises this event, and to the Tournaments Committee: David Stanton, Joanne Brown, Richard Christian, Mike Hughes who ensure the Tournaments program is held.

The Inaugural National Ricochet Championships were held at Mackey Park, Tempe in April, organised by the National Ricochet Co-ordinator Ray Chapman. A select field contested the event, with doubles winners David Scott and Ray Chapman from Ballina Cherry Street, and Peter Freer from Canberra winning the singles.

Advantage Handicap play was adopted as the standard for Croquet NSW handicap events, and most Clubs followed suit. The format seems to be winning over players, and competition will continue to use Advantage play in 2024.

2024 will see a new website and management platform for Croquet NSW powered by RevSport. This will enable co-ordination of member data from Clubs through to the national level, it will enable entry and payment for tournaments, and will greatly enhance communication to and for Clubs. We sincerely thank

David Archer who has created and quietly and efficiently maintained our website and suite of databases since 2005. Without him we would have struggled to run tournaments and to co-ordinate information from Clubs and their members.

Croquet NSW Board members have again put in considerable work in not only making decisions and enacting priorities from croquet across the State. They also take on active tasks in managing our HQ at Tempe, putting out newsletters, managing ricochet and Club Hubs, and of course managing Croquet NSW finances. This year Treasurer, Steve Miles is stepping down from the Board, and we thank him for his considerable work in overseeing our finances and leaving Croquet NSW in a good financial position. Thanks Steve!

Coaching numbers continue to grow, particularly in Golf Croquet, and Croquet NSW recognises the service of Pam Gentle in her role as State Director, Coaching through the transition to the new Coaching Accreditation structure and for her personal calm, organised and knowledgeable manner. She is retiring after some years in this role.

Refereeing, in Golf Croquet particularly has been a hot topic this year, and Lorraine Hatfield has been a competent and calm figure in encouraging and growing our pool of referees, and in representing NSW in this area. Her regular communication and attention to the referee community has been highly valued, and she will be missed.

Croquet NSW was very sad to lose some significant individuals in 2023. Stephen Howes died in February: a key figure at Cammeray Croquet Club, and well-respected referee who participated in many major tournaments. Bev Smith died in April. The former State Director of Refereeing (Golf Croquet) had been a significant figure at her post for 10 years, and officiating at many competitions from Club, State, National and International levels. In July Past President of Croquet NSW, Tony McArthur died. Tony was remembered fondly as a significant member of Sutherland Croquet Club, and a generous 'gentle' man by the many people whose lives he touched. Vale to all.

Kate McLoughlin

Chair, Croquet NSW

Board Members and Attendance 1st January to 31st December 2023

Board Members	Attended	Comments
Kate McLoughlin	9	Kate playing in Worlds and ISS (granted Leave of Absence)
Ray Chapman	13	
Rik Mills	13	
Steve Miles	11	
Liz Friend	13	
Fidye Westgarth	10	
Stephen Burns	8	Joined the Board in March
Simon Cook	2	Resigned from the Board March

Financial Reports

Treasurer's Report

Financial Result

This report is a summary of the financial results for the twelve months ending 31 December 2023. This is the first 12-month reporting period after CNSW changed its reporting period from a June year end to a December year end at the end of 2022. More detail is provided in the full financial statements which are presented in a separate document.

The twelve to 31 December 2023 have resulted in a solid profit of \$20,965. The major items affecting this result were:

- Much higher investment income as interest rates on term deposits increased.
- The support of the Office of Sport Covid recovery grants
- Lower than expected renovation costs at Tempe for 2023 as the December renovation was split into two components in December 2023 and January 2024. CNSW did however incur \$4,661 in water costs for the first time at Tempe under an agreement with Concordia and Inner West Council.
- Growth in income from affiliation fees through growth in membership. Tournament fees were also up as Tempe lawn income which includes lawn use payments from Cooks River Croquet Club.

Earnings (\$)	Dec-23	Dec-22	Jun-22	Jun-21	Jun-20
Months in Period	12	6	12	12	12
Earnings from Croquet Activities	4,744	-5,452	26,424	8,022	-7,744
Earnings from Investment Activities	16,221	3,414	31,757	31,548	11,879
Change in Basis				40,370	
Total Earnings	20,965	-2,038	58,181	79,940	4,135

As a result of the profit the net asset position was:

Croquet NSW Balance Sheet (\$)					
Period Ending	Dec-23	Dec-22	Jun-22	Jun-21	Jun-20
Months in Period	12	6	12	12	12
<i>Current Assets</i>					
Cash	634,822	677,494	645,238	392,250	469,156
Receivables	8,693	8,881	8,152	19,677	2,365
Inventories	372	309	126	1,212	2,503
Other	0	15,304	47,250	46,660	6,586
<i>Non Current Assets</i>					
Other Financial Assets	0	0	0	160,677	131,484
Property, Plant, Equipment	8,354	10,347	10,055	10,283	11,891
Total Assets	652,241	712,335	710,821	630,758	623,984
<i>Current Liabilities</i>					
Payables	32,368	48,249	15,460	9,013	13,411
Office of Sport Grants	51,537	116,715	140,615	119,189	186,685
Other	0	0	5,337	11,329	12,601
Total Liabilities	83,905	164,964	161,412	139,531	212,697
Net Assets	568,336	547,371	549,408	491,227	411,287
Difference in Net Assets	20,965	-2,037	58,181	79,940	4,135

CNSW continues to spend the Office of Sport Annual Grant monies to support and grow the sport. The balance of Office of Sport Special Purpose Grants funds is \$51,537. The Income and Expenditure accounts show the amount of funding paid out by CNSW rather than the initial grant received.

Payables at the end of the year are still high due to the delay in receiving lawn maintenance accounts.

The Financial Statements have the full financial details for the year. In summary the income and expenditure were:

Croquet NSW					
Summary of Income & Expenditure (\$)					
Period Ending	Dec-23	Dec-22	Jun-22	Jun-21	Jun-20
Months in Period	12	6	12	12	12
Income					
Affiliation Fees	153,275	69,240	134,883	128,066	122,127
Nationals	0	0	9,846	0	0
Office of Sport Annual Grant	15,000	0	15,000	15,000	15,000
Office of Sport Special Grant Income	65,178	22,900	82,474	67,000	0
Insurance Levies	10,362	3,137	8,693	11,398	10,054
Investment Income & Gains	16,221	3,414	5,260	10,368	11,690
Movement in Value of Investments	0	0	26,497	21,180	190
Presentation Day Income	0	0	0	0	1,179
Tournament Entry Fees	25,008	9,815	23,726	21,772	7,822
Tempe HQ Lawn Income	8,841	2,530	4,615		
Miscellaneous Items	885	772	1,013	1,064	2,801
Total Income	294,770	111,807	312,008	275,848	170,863
Expenses					
ACA Affiliation Fees	95,661	42,759	80,185	40,370	42,480
ACA Affiliation Fee Rebate	0	0	0	0	42,358
Audit, Legal and Consulting Fees	3,500	2,000	1,900	2,000	4,919
Lawn Hire, Tournaments, Trophies	13,633	5,580	10,415	8,652	5,718
Depreciation	1,993	1,267	2,946	2,571	2,328
Insurance	15,304	7,436	12,968	11,448	10,821
Lawns, Tempe, CRCC	52,062	12,428	32,847	52,529	33,188
Office of Sport Special Grant Outgo	65,178	22,900	82,474	67,000	0
National Championships	0	2,223	10,137	500	500
Office, Newsletter, Yearbooks	5,047	3,764	10,557	3,359	4,146
Presentation Day and Gala Day	0	0	0	0	3,559
Publicity	0	0	180	0	55
State Teams & Competition	19,538	11,221	3,866	2,239	13,908
Travel & Accommodation	307	1,019	3,905	1,601	1,942
Referee, Coaching, Hubs	1,583	1,248	1,446	3,639	808
Total Expenses	273,804	113,845	253,827	195,908	166,727
Net Profit	20,965	-2,038	58,181	79,940	4,135

Building Fund

Historically, the financial results have separated assets into General Funds and a Building Fund. There was no commitment to a building but a general expectation that funds may be needed to build a clubhouse somewhere. The basis behind this model was that the building fund would receive the investment income from assets allocated to the Building Fund and that the General Funds would back a Croquet Business that would be break even each year.

The Building Fund does fund improvements at Tempe where net costs are more than \$25,000. In this accounting period there were also one and a half renovations as well as the addition of water costs mentioned above:

Building Fund (\$)	Dec-23	Dec-22	Jun-22	Jun-21	Jun-20
Months in Period	12	6	12	12	12
Balance at Start of Year	416,620	415,026	385,203	382,056	375,261
Investment Surplus	16,221	3,414	31,757	31,776	11,795
Tempe Costs less Income	-43,221	-9,898	-26,577	-30,000	-30,000
Costs excluded	33,661	8,500	25,000	25,000	25,000
Lawn Reorganisation				-22,555	
Investment Income on Grants	-722	-422	-358	-1,074	
Balance at End of Year	422,560	416,620	415,026	385,203	382,056

It is important to look at this figure in the context of the overall net asset position of CNSW. As can be seen below, CNSW is well capitalised.

Allocation of Net Assets (\$)	Dec-23	Dec-22	Jun-22	Jun-21	Jun-20
Months in Period	12	6	12	12	12
Investments supporting the Building Fund	422,560	416,620	415,026	385,203	382,056
Business Assets - Cash and Receivables	137,050	104,791	76,951	47,869	8,252
Business Assets - Non Financial	8,726	25,960	57,431	58,155	20,980
Total Net Assets	568,336	547,371	549,408	491,227	411,288
Check	568,336	547,371	549,408	491,227	411,287

Looking Forward

Inner West Council is still reviewing the management of Mackey Park and the licences for park users. Our chair, Kate McLoughlin has been doing a great job putting the CNSW case forward with IWC. Our challenges this year will be.

- Responding to any change in the arrangements at Tempe.
- Reviewing the club hubs programme after the first two years
- Support clubs in growing membership and recruit more clubs. All clubs in NSW benefit from the work done by CNSW and by the players who develop through CNSW coaching and tournaments
- Implementing a new website following a decision by Croquet Australia to adopt a standard platform. CNSW will be implementing this platform which will include online tournament entries and payments. This will save the Treasurer a lot of work.

In closing I would like to thank club secretaries and treasurers for their help in paying promptly and being responsive to my information requests. Our overworked secretary, Rik Mills as well as board member Fidy Westgarth have promptly signed off payments where required. Once again, my personal thanks to Pam Wiemers as Membership Officer and Lisa Kelshaw who handles merchandise sales. David Archer continues to work in the background on our current website and supports the need to update the current site. I know David is looking forward to the new CNSW website which will be handled by RevSport.

Finally, my thanks to our hard-working auditor, Mark Warmsley of Reassurance Services.

See you on a lawn somewhere.

Steve Miles – CNSW Treasurer

Membership and Clubs

Club Information

CNSW Region	Clubs	Affiliated Members	Full Size Lawns	Clubs Play AC	Clubs Play GC	Clubs Play RC	Clubs Play GB
ACT & Riverina	5	296	11	4	5	4	4
Coffs Coast	6	266	13	6	6	5	5
Hunter	11	640	32	4	4	4	2
Mid North Coast	4	223	33	11	11	11	11
Northern Rivers	6	247	26	11	11	9	9
Northern Sydney	13	748	15	7	8	8	7
South Coast	8	309	19	8	8	8	7
Southern Sydney	8	357	13	8	8	8	7
Western Region	8	262	13	3	5	2	2
Totals	69	3348	175	62	66	59	54

CNSW Appointed Positions Holders 2023

Appointed Positions	Continuing	Retiring
State Handicapper	Gareth Denyer	
Tournament Committee	David Stanton (Chair) Richard Christian Mike Hughes Joanne Brown	Peter Landrebe Stephen Richards
AC Selectors	Stephen Richards (Chair) David Stanton Kerri Ann Organ Mike Hughes	
GC Selectors	Peter Montague (Chair) Peter Freer Ros Johnston <i>Vacant</i>	David Hanbidge
State Director of Coaching		
State Co-ordinator of Coaching		Pam Gentle
State Director Refereeing AC	<i>Vacant</i>	
State Director Refereeing GC		Lorraine Hatfield
State Director Refereeing GB	Petula Shun	
State Director Gateball	Judy Tier/Petula Shun	
State Director Ricochet	Richard Hughes	
State Co-ordinator, Junior Croquet	Jacky McDonald	

Merchandise Officer	Lisa Kelshaw	
Membership Officer	Pam Wiemers	
Complaints and MPIO Officer		John Bartrop
Web Manager	David Archer	
Tempe Lawns Management Committee	Steve Miles Stephen Burns	Peter Landrebe Rosie Landrebe

Croquet NSW thanks all the volunteers in the above positions and those retiring for their hard work and dedication.

Committee and Officers Reports

Tournament Committee Report

1. Members of the Tournament Committee are Joanne Brown, Richard Christian, Mike Hughes, Peter Landrebe and David Stanton. Peter Landrebe has signalled his intention to not seek reappointment to the TC at the March 2024 CNSW AGM, and we will be looking to recruit another member to replace him. While she is no longer a member of the TC, Lorraine Hatfield continues to manage the important task of organising GC Pennants, for all 3 divisions.
2. Roberta Flint has recently offered (and her offer has been gratefully accepted) to contact referees for all CNSW events at Tempe, and to aim to appoint a Tournament Referee for each event. Thanks Roberta.
3. Since the last TC report in October 2023, we have conducted 6 CNSW events (2 at Canberra and 4 at Tempe), plus the finals of the Division 1 GC Pennants (at Sutherland). One event, the Under 21 GC Championship was cancelled because of a lack of entries.
4. In November 2023 we asked the CNSW Secretary to circulate a list of CNSW events in 2024 for which we were seeking host clubs. The response was quite good, and only one event (the AC Platinum Singles in June) is yet to have a host club allocated. An offer for this event has been received in the last few days and has yet to be considered by the TC. 2024 CNSW events will be hosted at 14 clubs, with Canberra, Chatswood, and Strathfield each hosting two events, and Cammeray generously hosting three events.
5. Our aim is to have events hosted in different parts of the State in different years, rotating roughly between north, metropolitan and south. For GC events, this system works quite well, but it is difficult to achieve for AC events because so few country clubs play AC on a regular basis.
6. With the aim of encouraging AC in regional centres, in 2024 we will trial holding the AC Bronze, Silver and Gold Brooch events in two parts – one hosted by a club in metropolitan Sydney and one hosted by a club outside Sydney. The plan then is that the winner and runner-up from each event would come to Tempe for a final knockout towards the end of the year. Host clubs have already been allocated for the Sydney events (all at Cammeray), and expressions of interest are sought from country clubs.
7. Once again, all events this year have been run using the Croquet Tournament Management System which I have developed over the last few years. As stated in my last report, my aim is to get this system used quite widely. I have run two workshops to train people in the use of the system, one in Nowra in November 2023 (attended by 14 people from various South Coast clubs) and one in Toronto in February 2024 (attended by 11 people from Hunter region clubs). Tentative arrangements are in place for two further workshops, in Canberra in April and at Coutts Crossing (probably actually held in Grafton) in May. I am happy to run workshops at other hubs if requested.

8. Unfortunately, not much progress has been made in the last four months with developing a new set of Tournament Regulations. I am hopeful that we will make significant progress over the next couple of months.

David Stanton
CNSW Tournament Committee

Association Croquet Selection Committee

The AC Selection Committee (ACSC) for 2023-24 comprised Stephen Richards (Chair), Mike Hughes, Kerri-Ann Organ, David Stanton and Peter Landrebe, in his capacity as State Team Coach. Peter Landrebe stood down from the ACSC in January 2024 due to personal commitments and that position was left vacant given the short period of time to the 2024 CNSW AGM at which nominations for all Committee positions will be considered.

In June 2023, the ACSC selected a State Squad of 12 players from whom it was expected, based on performances over the previous 12 months, the 2024 State Team would be selected.

The ACSC also invited another 18 players, identified as having the potential to compete successfully in State events and who may come under consideration for selection in future state teams, to join a Development Squad. Eleven players accepted the invitation and all who did were encouraged to enter the CNSW Development Squad Tournament played at Tempe on 5-6 August. Pleasingly, many did, with the tournament attracting a field of 11 and Chris Lavina winning a keenly contested event. Unfortunately, informal coaching support arrangements planned for the Development Squad were not as successful as hoped and the ACSC will be reviewing coaching support arrangements for next year's squad.

In August 2023, the ACSC selected a field of six for the Selectors Invitational event played at Tempe on 30 September-1 October 2023. The event was won by Kerri-Ann Organ who, by virtue of her victory, was offered the 8th place in the field for the 2023 CNSW Bronze Medal event (28-29 October 2023).

The other players selected by the ACSC to participate in the 2023 Bronze Medal were: Jim Nicholls, Peter Landrebe, Stephen Pearce, Tim Murphy, Stephen Richards, Rosie Landrebe and Chris Lavina. Unfortunately, Tim Murphy was a very late withdrawal due to injury and the event was played in Canberra on 28-29 October with a field of seven. Stephen Pearce won the Bronze Medal and will represent NSW in the ACA's Gold Medal event to be held in March 2024. In early November 2022, following the ACA's Australian Open Doubles and Singles Championships, the ACSC selected the State team for the 2024 Eire Cup which will be played in Hobart in March 2024. The team comprises 4 men (Jim Nicholls, Peter Landrebe [Captain], Stephen Pearce and Tim Murphy), 4 women (Rosie Landrebe, Kerri-Ann Organ, Joanne Brown and Helena Panasewycz) and 2 travelling reserves (Mike Gidding and Diane Scott). Rosie Landrebe was also appointed as Team Manager. The selected team was endorsed by the CNSW Board in late November 2023.

The ACSC predominately conducted its business via email exchanges. However, the Committee held 4 meetings via Zoom. Meetings were held in April 2023 (to initiate and EOI process for the State Team Coach and discuss players claims for positions in the AC State Squad and Development Squad), June 2023 (to finalise election of the AC State Squad and Development Squad), and twice in November 2023 (to discuss and confirm selection of the NSW Team for the 2024 Eire Cup). The CNSW Board member with responsibility for overseeing ACSC activities was invited to join meetings in an observer capacity.

The ACSC next expects to meet in early April 2024 to consider the performance of the team in the 2024 Eire Cup and select State and Development Squads for the 12 months leading up to the 2025 Eire Cup.

Stephen Richards
Chair, ACSC



2024 CNSW Eire Cup Team

Back Row Stephen Pearce, Jim Nicholls, Peter Landrebe [Captain], Tim Murphy

Front Row Rosie Landrebe [Manager], Joanne Brown Diane Scott Kerri-Ann Organ, Helena Panasewycz

Golf Croquet Selection Committee

AIMS

The GC Selection Committee's aims for 2023 and for 2024 were/are:

- to encourage the establishment or continuation of Regional Development Squads,
- to select a State Squad and to run trials and training sessions for the Squad members,
- to select teams for the Interstate Shield (2023, Perth, and Sunshine Coast, September 2024), and
- to select the fields for the Selectors' Event and the ACA Bronze Medal competitions.

Regional Development Squads

We have not succeeded yet in extending the current regional squads to new regions. The essentially informal approach may have run its course. It may be time for CNSW to consider making regional development squads an official CNSW activity and consider whether regional Club Hubs have a part to play in this. We think these squads have helped to provide a pathway for new players to feed into State selection, as well as enabling many individual players to strengthen their game.

State Squad 2023

To complete the State Squad program in 2023, we organized a pair of ISS-style tests, held at Cooks River on 28 February to 1 March. Squad training sessions were held on 25-26 April.

Selectors' Event 2023

The Selectors Event was organised as parallel Men's and Women's competitions, as in 2022, and held on 19-21 May, at Cooks River.

State Team 2023

Our recommendation for the State Team 2023 was submitted to the Board as planned, by the end of May, and was approved on 3 June.

Team Members

Jamie Gumbrell
Jill Sullivan
Kate McLoughlin
Reserves
Sue Sellers

Mark Scruton
Malcolm Powys
Kevin McGlynn

Derek Bull

Gerda Lambeck
Liz Montague

Pauline Markwell

Peter Freer
David Scott

Ethan Gumbrell



Offers were sent to these players, all of whom accepted. Individual feedback letters were sent to all Squad members who missed out on selection by 6 June.

State Team training sessions were held on 26 June and 26-27 August, adjacent to major NSW events, and led by Peter Freer and Peter Landrebe.

The NSW team won the Inter-State Shield in Perth, for the second successive year and again by a very narrow margin from Western Australia.

ACA Bronze Medal (NSW) 2023

The Committee invited players for the Bronze Medal on and after 4 June, the competition being held on 23-25 June.

State Squad 2024

The Committee met by Zoom on 15 November 2023 to initiate the campaign for 2024 and followed up by email to confirm the players to be invited to the State Team Squad. Some invitees declined, and a follow-up Zoom meeting decided to settle for a 16-person Squad for the time being:

Jamie Gumbrell	Peter Landrebe	Gerda Lambeck	Kevin McGlynn
Sue Sellers	David Scott	Rosie Landrebe	Malcolm Powys
Pauline Markwell	Mark Scruton	Jill Sullivan	Gareth Denyer
Georgina Carnegie	Ethan Gumbrell	Karen Bisley	Chris Williamson

A State Squad Trial is scheduled for 24-25 February 2024 at Cooks River.

As Peter Landrebe is in the squad and David Hanbidge is willing to assist with training, we have not looked elsewhere for a Team Coach. (Update: *Peter has had to withdraw from the Squad, so we need to identify another player and perhaps reconsider the Team Coach question.*)

We have made an early booking of accommodation for the State Team at Mooloolaba, to overcome some of the issues encountered in Perth, and CNSW have paid the deposit.

Ricochet Report

The inaugural Australian Ricochet championships was conducted at Tempe in April 2023. Peter Freer (Canberra) won the Singles championship from David Scott (Ballina Cherry Street).

In the Australian Doubles, David Scott, and Ray Chapman (Ballina Cherry Street) won from Rob Elliott & Don

Wright (Cooks River).

The CNSW Ricochet singles Championship held at Nowra was won by Ray Chapman for the third consecutive year from Margaret Sawers (Nowra).

The CNSW Ricochet doubles was won by Chris Williamson & Cheryl Paterson (Toronto) from Doug Cornish & Wayne Worrell (Nowra).

The CNSW Ricochet Division 2 Singles championship was won by Chris Williamson (Toronto) from Phyllis Waters (Lismore).

The CNSW Ricochet Division 2 Doubles championship was won by Walter Mills and John Pace (Maitland) from Chris Gill (Newcastle National Park) & Richard Hughes (Ballina).

Many thanks to all the clubs who have hosted Ricochet in 2023. Without your support, and in particular your members' support, Ricochet would struggle to flourish.

Thanks also go to David Stanton for all his support in ensuring that all the draws and associated work for the Ricochet events are done in an extremely efficient manner.

The review of the Ricochet Rules book was completed in 2023. The new books have been printed and distributed to the clubs.

All Ricochet referees were issued a complimentary copy of the new rules book. Additional copies of the rule books (available in two sizes A5 & A6) can be ordered from the CNSW merchandising officer.

A National Guide to Ricochet Handicapping was completed during 2023 and a copy is available on the ACA website under Disciplines/Ricochet.

Hope to see you at a Ricochet event during 2024.

Ray Chapman
Ricochet Coordinator

Gateball Report

Gateball is continuing to grow and thrive in NSW. Encouraging members to become coaches and referees has been a focus this year.

The Club Hubs have been successful in offering workshops including "Think like a Captain" and "Beginners Captain" to players in Toronto and Strathfield Hubs. The first of these two was also presented in Queensland, Victoria and online. Hopefully, this CNSW initiative can be integrated into the ACA coaching program. It is disappointing that Port Macquarie Club Hub is no longer able to offer Gateball to its members or the district it covers.

In May, Gateball Australia organized a Gateball Captaincy course that was held in Queensland. NSW captains were well represented, and it will in time help to develop the skills in teams. Two of the 5 presenters were NSW Level 3 coaches.

2023 was highly successful in developing referees. Jennie Brentnall (Strathfield), Peter Wood, Ralph Richardson, Judy Tier (Canberra) and Bev Mersmann (Newcastle) received their Level 1 referee accreditation.

Lynda Toms and Lorraine Hatfield (Cooks River) and Elizabeth Dolphin (Strathfield) are now Referees in Training (RIT).

Lynda Toms and Lorraine Hatfield (Cooks River), Jennie Brentnall (Strathfield) and Robyn Hayes (Hazelbrook) are now accredited as Level 2 coaches.

Canberra Triples was the first competition for 2023, in February. The winners were Glen Whitehead, Julie Toms and Margot Davis from Canberra in a thrilling final. A team from Strathfield and Hazelbrook Clubs were runners-up at the Victorian Championship in March. Strathfield hosted a Teams' Invitations in May. This was

won by the Newcastle team. Later in the year NSW travelled to South Australia for its State championship. In June, Newcastle hosted the Newcastle Triples Competition. The winners were Robyn Hayes, John and Penny Park, from Hazelbrook.

In September, the Australian Gateball competition was held in Wodonga. Japanese and Indian teams competed. The weather is dreadfully wet and cold but that didn't dampen the spirits of the players. Canberra's Glen and Christine Whitehead were the Double winners and Kew the Team winners.

Newcastle hosted the NSW State championship in October. Both Doubles and Team were won by Queensland teams. This competition was Judy Tier's last event as NSW Gateball Coordinator. Judy is a difficult act to follow. I would like to thank her for her ongoing support.

Petula Shun
NSW Gateball Coordinator.

Coaching Coordinator Report

The year has seen many new coaches accredited, and many upgrading their coaching qualifications to the next level. In Golf Croquet we have 41 new Level 1 coaches, 39 coaches who have upgraded to Level 2, and 2 upgraded to Level 3. In Association Croquet we have 2 new Level 1 coaches, and 2 who have upgraded to level 2. In Ricochet, we have 6 new Level 1 coaches, and 3 upgraded to Level 2. In Gateball, we have 2 new Level 1 coaches, and 5 upgraded to Level 2. Congratulations to all those coaches. Teaching and coaching is an extremely rewarding job, and I would encourage all coaches to upgrade to the next level.

Unfortunately, there have been problems in accessing the ACA Academy Learning Management System, but hopefully these problems have now been addressed. If you are having difficulties with the system, please contact the ACA for help. The site contains valuable resources which can help on your coaching journey.

Thanks go to all our active course Presenters throughout the year – John Park (for Gateball), and Trevor Black in the Hunter, Barb Piggott on the Coffs Coast, Janine Crellin on the Mid-North Coast, Stephen Burns in Sydney, Ray Chapman in the Northern Rivers, and Peter Freer in Canberra. NSW is a big State, and these volunteers are essential for improving the coaching in their areas.

After 7 years in this position, I have decided it is time to make way for a new Coaching Coordinator. I have enjoyed meeting and training many new coaches around the State and hope to see many of you on the lawns in the future. I wish all the best to whoever takes over as CNSW Coaching Coordinator.

Pam Gentle
Coaching Coordinator

Association Refereeing Report

The re-accreditation of referees is progressing thanks to the work of John Cook.

Golf Croquet Refereeing Report

The GC refereeing team in New South Wales has worked very smoothly during 2023.

All Examining referees have at least one Tutor referee to work with them as they mentor trainee referees through the accreditation process. Each region in NSW has at least one Examining Referee and one Tutor Referee and the current trainees are spread over all regions.

This is a good place to draw attention to - and put on record - the time and effort contributed by Examining and Tutor referees in mentoring trainee referees. The formal examination process takes 4 to 5 hours in total for each candidate.

It involves:

- marking and giving feedback on an Open Book Exam which includes questions on GC Rules and practical matters involved in refereeing at Tournaments.
- assessing the candidate's practical refereeing skills.

- conducting a final oral assessment on knowledge of the Rules by asking 40 questions selected from a bank of questions supplied by ACA.

In addition to these formalities, extra time is spent supervising "practice" refereeing sessions, sorting out questions and giving extra coaching where a candidate is not yet up to the required standard.

As of January 2024, in NSW there are:

- 72 Accredited GC referees
- 9 Examining GC referees.
- 9 Tutor GC referees
- 24 Trainee referees actively working towards accreditation.

Lorraine Hatfield
SDRGC - Croquet NSW

Club Hubs Report

CNSW now has six Club Hubs, Canberra, Coutts Crossing, Port Macquarie, Strathfield, Toronto and Nowra which became a Club Hub in mid-2023.

All the Hubs continue to provide meaningful and accessible support for existing croquet clubs in their region and beyond.

Christine Edlund, the Club Hub coordinator, has been working closely with them to ensure they can continue to provide the services and presenters for their various activities.

The Club Hub calendar will be a source of information for all clubs to become involved in Club Hub programs.

In 2023 the Club Hubs conducted the following 55 workshops: -

Golf 32
Gateball 14
Association 5
Ricochet 4

These workshops covered such things as basic and advanced coaching, refereeing, and advanced tactics.

The total number of participants at the workshops was 735 consisting of 248 males and 487 females.

In addition, there were several come-and-try days conducted at various locations where interested local people came along and tried playing croquet.

Most Presenters were sourced from local members and they all should be congratulated for giving up their time to pass on their knowledge to all the participants,

Club Hubs have hosted six CNSW events with three other events due to be hosted were cancelled due to lack of numbers.

The Club Hubs' Memoranda of Understanding expire at the end of June 2024 and Clubs Hubs will need to re-apply for funding and re-accreditation around May 2024.

Ray Chapman
Club Hub Board Contact

International and Nation Winners

Jamie Gumbrell, who at her first appearance, is the new GC Women's World Champion. Jamie's success is a testament to her hard work, dedication, and commitment to the sport. Jamie won the seventh championship, defeating Rachel Gee, a previous world champion and current European Champion to take the title in Sussex, England.



2023 Eire Cup (AC)

Team Members (L: R) Trevor Bassett, Rosie Landrebe, Diane Scott, Kerrie-Ann Organ, Stephen Richards, Peter Landrebe, Stephen Pearce, Joanne Brown, Alison Sharpe and Tim Murphy



2023 Interstate Shield (GC)

Team Members (L: R)

Kate McLoughlin, Jamie Gumbrell, Liz Montague, Peter Freer, Gerda Lambeck, Jill Sullivan, Kevin McGlynn, Malcolm Powys, Mark Scruton, and David Scott



ACA 2023 (GC) HANDICAP SINGLES, 23 October, Albury Australian 2023 Golf Croquet Handicap Singles Championship, hosted by the Twin City Croquet Club at the Albury Tennis Association courts. This year's format was Advantage Play. Winner Peter Webb (Albury), and Runner up Peter Kadar (Hunters Hill).



ACA 2023 (GC) CROQUET HANDICAP DOUBLES, 24 October, Albury Hosted by Twin City Croquet Club at the Albury Tennis Association courts. This year's format was Advantage Play. Winners Clare Wilson (Southern Highlands) and Simon Kempson (Orange)



ACA Ricochet Singles and Doubles
Peter Freer Winner Singles, and
David Scott and Ray Chapman Doubles



CNSW Croquet Event Winners 2023

NSW AC 3 & UNDER SINGLES

Won by Alison Sharpe (Mosman) from Trevor Bassett (Cooks River)

NSW 5 & UNDER MIXED DOUBLES

Won by Rosie Landrebe (Camberay) & Stephen Richards (Canberra) from Diane Scott (Wollongong) & Stephen Pearce (Canberra)

NSW GC MENS SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Won by Mark Scruton (Canberra) from Peter Freer (Canberra)

NSW GC WOMENS SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Won by Jill Sullivan (Cooks River) from Sue Sellers (Toronto)

NSW AC BRONZE SINGLES

Won by Mary Lambert (Killara) from Margaret Craig (Killara)

NSW GC OPEN SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Won by Peter Landrebe (Camberay) from David Scott (Ballina Cherry Street)

NSW AC MENS SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Won by Tim Murphy (Canberra) from Trevor Bassett (Cooks River)

NSW AC SILVER SINGLES

Won by Paul Skvorc (Cooks River) from Gerard Barry (Chatswood)

NSW RICOCHET DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Won by Cheryl Patterson & Chris Williamson (Toronto) from Doug Cornish & Wayne Worrell (Nowra)

NSW RICOCHET SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Won by Ray Chapman (Ballina Cherry Street) from Margaret Sawers (Nowra)

NSW AC WOMENS SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Won by Kerri-Ann Organ (Canberra) from Kathie Grant (QLD)

NSW AC PLATINUM SINGLES

Won by Don Wright (Cooks River) from Ted Woodley (Chatswood)

BERYL CHAMBERS STATE HANDICAP

Won by Ted Woodley (Chatswood) from Julie Toms (Canberra)

GC DIVISION 1 PENNANTS

Won by Newcastle from Cooks River

GC DIVISION 2 PENNANTS

Won by Canberra from Marrickville

GC DIVISION 3 PENNANTS

Won by Wollongong from Nelson Bay Birubi

GC DIVISION 2 DOUBLES

Won by Ian Donald (Canberra) & Ian McRae (Canberra) from Jaki Gaskell (Jamberoo) & Janelle Wilson (Canberra)

GC DIVISION 2 SINGLES

Won by Brian Mitchell (Nowra) from Rae Uptin (Nelson Bay)

GC ADVANTAGE DOUBLES

Won by Sharon Daley (Ballina) & Margaret Mitchell (Ballina) from Chris Cox (Port Macquarie) & Jim Hannigan (Ballina Cherry Street)

GC ADVANTAGE SINGLES

Won by Margaret Carwood (Maitland) from Sharon Daley (Ballina)

NSW GC DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Won by Ethan Gumbrell (Canberra) & Jamie Gumbrell (Canberra) from Elizabeth Montague (Killara) & David Scott (Ballina Cherry Street)

NSW DIVISION 3 GC DOUBLES

Won by Les Guzowski & Ralph Harrison (Nelson Bay) from Janelle Gaggin (Marrickville) & Judy Tonkin (Marrickville)

NSW DIVISION 3 SINGLES

Won by Carol Studdert (Wagga Wagga) from Wendy Herbert (Marrickville)

NSW RICOCHET DIVISION 2 DOUBLES

Won by Walter Mills (Maitland) & John Pace (Maitland) from Chris Gill (Newcastle) & Richard Hughes (Ballina)

NSW RICOCHET DIVISION 2 SINGLES

Won by Chris Williamson (Toronto) from Phyllis Waters (Lismore)

NSW AC EVA SHORT MEMORIAL

Won by Kerri-Ann Organ (Canberra)

NSW AC WIN DICKINSON MEMORIAL

Won by Joanne Brown (Cammeray)

NSW GC SILVER BROOCH

Won by Ian Donald (Canberra) from Brian Mitchell (Nowra)

NSW GC BRONZE BROOCH

Won by Tony Croft (Port Macquarie) from Faby Batho (Nelson Bay)

NSW SELECTORS TOURNAMENT

Won by Chris Lavina (Cammeray) from Don Wright (Cooks River)

NSW GC MIXED DOUBLES

Won by Peter Freer (Canberra) & Kate McLoughlin (Canberra) from Mark Scruton (Canberra) & Sue Sellers (Toronto)