**AUSTRALIAN CROQUET ASSOCIATION**

**Incorporated**

**Report from the Australian Croquet Association Committee to review ACA Competitions**

**by**

**Bruce Fleming**

**Jacky McDonald**

**Shane Davis**

# Terms of Reference.

**The Committee will:**

* be formulated and chaired by ACA Vice President Bruce Fleming with the approval of the ACA Executive as decided at the November 20, 2008 Executive Meeting;
* report its findings before the end of March 2009;
* be comprised of three members with a wide ranging experience in the playing of and management and administration of Association Croquet and Golf Croquet tournaments;
* achieve the primary objective of reviewing the level of competition in both Association and Golf croquet and develop strategies to improve internal competition within Australia;
* be required to review all current events in Association and Golf Croquet suggesting possible improvements to formats and regulations;
* be required to consider the development of new events with suggested formats and timetables for implementation;

The Committee is empowered to consult within Australia and internationally to seek creative ideas and ensure that world’s best practice is adopted.

# Summary of proposed changes.

A committee was formed in December 2008 in accordance with the terms of reference agreed by the ACA Executive to review the competitive environment available to Australian croquet players.

The committee members were Bruce Fleming, Jacky McDonald and Shane Davis.

It was considered by the Executive that there was a need to continue to work towards providing equivalence between Association Croquet and Golf Croquet tournament programs.

It was also considered by the Executive that the Association Croquet tournament program had not been reviewed since 2000 and a review was necessary to further enhance the level of domestic competition available to Australian players. A significant driver to the review was a requirement to raise the standard of Australian croquet in international competition.

The existing tournament program is summarized below.

**Tournament Program**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Association Croquet** | **Golf Croquet** |
|  Australian Open Singles | Open Singles Golf Croquet Championship of Australia  |
|  Australian Open Doubles  |  |
| President's Eights - 1st Eight, 2nd Eight, Ladies Eight.  |  |
| Gold Medal |  |
| Australian Mens/Womens Singles | Proposed Australian Womens Singles |
| Eire Cup (Interstate Cup ) | Interstate Shield |
| National AC Handicap Championships | National GC Handicap Championships |

It was considered by the committee that the formats and regulations for the existing tournaments have been recently reviewed by the ACA and are subject to continual review through players meetings. The committee feels that the existing events are not in need of further review and has devoted its efforts to the consideration of the development of new events.

Changes proposed for Association Croquet are modest but will give developing players more opportunities and also create a platform for further expansion of the tournament program in the future along the lines of ‘three or four day’ open events which have proved to be a huge success in the UK.

Changes proposed for Golf Croquet are more extensive and are designed to provide full parity between Golf Croquet and Association Croquet. It is envisaged that the structure of the Golf Croquet tournament program will be essentially identical to Association Croquet and the formats will be similar, however it is recognized that Golf Croquet matches should be ‘best of three’ wherever possible, and formats should change where necessary to reflect this requirement.

The tables below show the existing tournament program for Association Croquet and Golf Croquet in more detail plus a summary of the proposed changes and new events. (Shown in red.)

**Association Croquet**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **EVENT** | **TIME** | **ENTRY FEE** | **NOMINAL ENTRY** | **TROPHY** | **WINNER** | **RUNNER UP** |
| Patrons Trophy | February | $50 | 32 | Yes | $300 | $150 |
| Mens Singles | March | $70 | 48 | Yes | $500 | $250 |
| Women’s Singles | March | $70 | 48 | Yes | $500 | $250 |
| Interstate Cup | March | $330 Team | 6 | Yes |  |  |
| Gold Medal | March | $54  | 6 | Gold and Silver Bronze Medals |  |  |
| Presidents First Eight  | October | $250 | 8 | Yes |  |  |
| Presidents Second Eight  | October | $250 | 8 | Yes |  |  |
| Presidents Third Eight  | October | $250 | 8 | Yes |  |  |
| Presidents Women’s Eight  | October | $250 | 8 | Yes |  |  |
| Open Singles | November | $120 | 64 | Yes | $1000 | $500 |
| Open Doubles | November | $65 each | 32 | Yes | $200 each | $100 each |
| Handicap Singles | October | $100 |  |  | $120 | $60 |
| Handicap Doubles | October | $100 each |  |  | $60 each | $40 each |

**Golf Croquet**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **EVENT** | **TIME** | **ENTRY FEE** | **NOMINAL ENTRY** | **TROPHY** | **WINNER** | **RUNNER UP** |
| Presidents First Eight  | April | $250 | 8 | Yes |  |  |
| Presidents Second Eight  | April | $250 | 8 | Yes |  |  |
| Presidents Third Eight  | April | $250 | 8 | Yes |  |  |
| Open Singles | May | $120 | 64 | Yes | $1000 | $500 |
| Open Doubles | May | $65 each | 32 | Yes | $200 each | $100 each |
| Patrons Trophy | July/August | $50 | 32 | Yes | $300 | $150 |
| Mens Singles | September | $70 | 48 | Yes | $500 | $250 |
| Women’s Singles | September | $70 | 48 | Yes | $500 | $250 |
| Interstate Shield | September | $330 Team | 6 | Yes |  |  |
| Gold Medal | September | $54  | 6 | Gold and Silver Bronze Medals |  |  |
| Handicap Singles | October | $60 |  |  | $120 | $60 |
| Handicap Doubles | October | $40 each |  |  | $60 each | $40 each |

**Changes**

The changes proposed for Association Croquet are the introduction of a new open event, the “Patrons Trophy” and the addition of a new Eight, the President’s Third Eight.

The changes for Golf Croquet are the introduction of eight new events to provide equivalence with Association Croquet. The only event not replicated is the Presidents Women’s Eight.

It is also suggested that the grouping of Golf Croquet events is changed to be the same as Association Croquet. This will mean that Interstate Shield is grouped with the Men’s and Ladies singles and Gold and Silver Medal. The Golf Croquet Open Singles and Open Doubles would be grouped together as a separate suite of events played at a different time.

**Time-table for introduction of new events.**

A suggested time-table for the introduction of the new events is given below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Introduction of Event** |
| 2009 | Women’s Golf Croquet singlesIncrease Association Croquet Eights by addition of President’s Third Eight |
| 2010 | Introduce the Association Croquet Patron’s TrophyRegroup Golf Croquet events so that the Men’s and Women’s is played with the Interstate Shield and the Open Doubles and Open Singles are played at a separate time.Introduce the Golf Croquet Gold, silver and Bronze Medals.  |
| 2011 | Introduce Golf Croquet Presidents Eights and Golf Croquet Patron’s Trophy  |

# Rationale behind the proposed new events.

**Association Croquet**

* The President’s third Eight.

The introduction of the President’s third Eight will provide an opportunity for greater spread of players to compete in these prestigious events.

This will help expand Australia’s base of competitive players by providing new opportunities without reducing the standard of existing competition.

New, promising players will get an earlier introduction to national competition and the opportunity to associate with the country’s best players on an equal footing.

 Some women players will be given an opportunity to play in a stronger group than available in the Women’s Eight.

The President’s third Eight should be played at the same time and venue as the existing Eights. It may be necessary move the Women’s eight to another venue to eliminate double banking.

* The Patron’s Trophy.

It is suggested the event be named The Patron’s Trophy to provide some real and tangible involvement of our patron the Governor General in our sport.

This event will introduce a new concept to Australian croquet which is that of a National ‘week-end’ open event played to a world class format. It is expected this event will be a ‘cut down’ version of the existing highly successful and highly regarded Women’s and Men’s singles.

The committee is very enthusiastic about the introduction of this event which is designed to provide many competitive advantages for Australian croquet. The argument is often put that Australia cannot get players together often enough due to large travel distances. Cheap airfares have cast doubt on that argument and this event, with a short time frame and subsequent lower accommodation costs and reduced leave requirements, will prove that we can do it.

The Patron’s Trophy will be an open event and the format should be a ‘best of three’ knockout played over three days if possible, utilizing a weekend to reduce holiday time requirement for the players.

Experience has shown that it is feasible to play five rounds of ‘best of three’ in three days if available daylight is fully utilized and suitable time limits are applied.

The maximum entry would be thirty two players and if oversubscribed the World Ranking of the players should be used to determine which entries are accepted.

To allow this event to provide alternative playing conditions to existing events The WCF draw should not be used.

One method could use a fully seeded draw but using the process style draw given by N vs (N+16) where (N = 1,2,...16).

Other alternatives could be to use the Bagnall - Wild method and to place sixteen seeds in the draw and randomly draw the rest or to place eight seeds in the draw and randomly draw the rest.

A suitable consolation event should be provided which could take the form of a Flexible Swiss.

If the event is fully subscribed consideration could be given to playing it as an XYZ ‘best of three’ knockout instead of having the Flexible Swiss consolation. These decisions are best left to the tournament manager at the time.

See attachment 1 for an XYZ ‘best of three’ knockout draw for thirty two players with additional matches to provide placing from one to thirty two.

To determine where the event should be held from year to year expressions of interest should be sought from the States and preference given to a State which is not hosting a national event that year.

Should this event prove to be successful, consideration should be given to the holding of a further similar event at a suitable time.

* National Handicap Events

The committee feels that the National Handicap Events at this stage of their evolution do not represent truly national events and should not be classified as national events.

The only way these events could develop into recognised national events would be for them to rotate around the States.

This would require a considerable amount of work and promotion by the States but the end result would be genuine National Handicap Events.

**Golf Croquet**

* Presidents Eights

The Presidents Eights events which are proposed are the First, Second and Third open Eights. The committee does not propose the introduction of a ‘women’s only Eight’.

The entries to the events would be by invitation according to current world ranking as is done for the Association Croquet Eights.

The format for these events could take the form of a single round robin with ‘best of three’ matches.

* Open Doubles

The entry to this event would be open. Subject to the number of entries the format for this event could take the form of round robin blocks with single matches and a ‘best of three’ knockout for eight qualifiers.

* Men’s and Women’s Singles

The entry to these events would be open. The format for these events could take the form of a ‘best of three’ knockout with a suitable plate event.

* Gold Silver and Bronze Medals.

The entry to these events would be by selection. These events would follow the format of the Association Croquet medals. The Bronze Medal would be hosted by the states with ten players selected on World Ranking playing a single round robin with ‘best of three’ matches.

The state winners would play off for the Gold and Silver Medals at the National Championships. The play off would be a single round robin with ‘best of three’ matches.

* Patron’s Trophy

The entry to this event would be open. The Patron’s Trophy would follow a similar format to the Association Croquet Patron’s Trophy being played as a ‘best of three’ knockout over three days with a Flexible Swiss consolation event.

If the event is fully subscribed consideration could be given to playing it as an XYZ ‘best of three’ knockout instead of having the Flexible Swiss consolation. These decisions are best left to the tournament manager at the time.

See attachment 1 for an XYZ ‘best of three’ knockout draw with additional matches to provide placing from one to thirty two.

To determine where the event should be held from year to year expressions of interest should be sought from the States and preference given to a State which is not hosting a national event that year.

Should this event prove to be successful, consideration should be given to the holding of a further similar event at a suitable time.

# Attachment 1

Proposed XYZ ‘best of three’ knockout draw with additional matches to provide placing from one to thirty two with possible court allocations.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **R0UND 5** | **R0UND 4**  | **ROUND3** | **ROUND 2** | **R0UND 1** | **ROUND 2** | **ROUND 3** | **R0UND 4** | **ROUND 5**  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Q/FINAL** | **S/FINAL** | **FINAL** |  |
|  |  |  |  | **Loser Round 1** |  | **Winner Round 1** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |   | 1 |   |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |   | 49 |   | 17 |   |  |  |  |
|  |  |   | 57 |   | 2 |   | 25 |   |  |  |
|  |  |   |  |  |   |  |  |   |  |  |
|  |   | 65 |  |   | 3 |   |  | 33 |   |  |
|  |   |   |   | 50 |   | 18 |   |   |   |  |
|  |   |  |   |   | 4 |   |   |  |   |  |
|  |   |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |   |  |
|   | 73 |  |  |   | 5 |   |  |  | 41 |   |
|   |   |  |   | 51 |   | 19 |   |  |   |   |
|   |   |   | 58 |   | 6 |   | 26 |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |  |  |   |  |  |   |   |   |
|   |  |   |  |   | 7 |   |  |   |  |   |
|   |  |   |   | 52 |   | 20 |   |   |  |   |
|   |  |  |   |   | 8 |   |   |  |  |   |
|   |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |   |
| 17th |  |  |  |   | 9 |   |  |  |  | 1st |
|   |  |  |   | 53 |   | 21 |   |  |  |   |
|   |  |   | 59 |   | 10 |   | 27 |   |  |   |
|   |  |   |  |  |   |  |  |   |  |   |
|   |   | 66 |  |   | 11 |   |  | 34 |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | 54 |   | 22 |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |  |   |   | 12 |   |   |  |   |   |
|   |   |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |   |   |
|  |   |  |  |   | 13 |   |  |  |   |  |
|  |   |  |   | 55 |   | 23 |   |  |   |  |
|  |   |   | 60 |   | 14 |   | 28 |   |   |  |
|  |   |   |  |  |   |  |  |   |   |  |
|  | For 19th/20th |   |  |   | 15 |   |  |   | For 3rd/4th |  |
|   | 74 |   |   | 56 |   | 24 |   |   | 42 |   |
| 19th |   |  |   |   | 16 |   |   |  |   | 3rd |
|  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **Loser Round 3** |  |  |  |  | **Loser Round 3** |  |
|  |  | 67 |  |  |  |  |  | 35 |   |  |
|  | 75 |   |  |  |  |  |  |   | 43 |   |
| 21st |   | 68 |  |  |  |  |  | 36 |   | 5th  |
|  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |
|  | For 23rd/24th |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | For 7th/8th |  |
|   | 76 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 44 |   |
| 23rd |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   | 7th |
|  |  |  | **Loser Round 2** |  |  | **Loser Round 2** |  |  |
|  |  |   | 61 |  |  |  | 29 |  |  |  |
|  |   | 69 |   |  |  |  |   | 37 |   |  |
|   | 77 |   | 62 |  |  |  | 30 |  | 45 |   |
|   |   |  |   |  |  |  |   |   |  |   |
| 25th |   |   | 63 |  |  |  | 31 |  |  | 9th |
|   |   | 70 |   |  |  |  |   | 38 |   |   |
|  |   |   | 64 |  |  |  | 32 |  |   |  |
|  |  |  |   |  |  |  |   |   |  |  |
|  | for 26th/27th |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | for 11th/12th |  |
|   | 78 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 46 |   |
| 27th |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   | 11th |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |   | 71 |  |  |  |  |  | 39 |   |  |
|   | 79 |   |  |  |  |  |  |   | 47 |   |
| 29th |   | 72 |  |  |  |  |  | 40 |   | 13th  |
|  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | for 31st/32nd |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | for 15th/16th |  |
|   | 80 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 48 |   |
| 31st |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   | 15th |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ROUND** | **COURT 1** | **COURT 2** | **COURT 3** | **COURT 4** |
|  |  | **GAME** |  | **GAME** |  | **GAME** |  | **GAME** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **1** | 1 v 2 | 1 | 5 v 6 | 3 | 9 v 10 | 5 | 13 v 14 | 7 |
|  | 3 v 4 | 2 | 7 v 8 | 4 | 11 v 12 | 6 | 15 v 16 | 8 |
|  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| **2** | W1 v W2 | 17 | W3 v W4 | 18 | W5 v W6 | 19 | W7 v W8 | 20 |
|  | L1 v L2 | 49 | L3 v L4 | 50 | L5 v L6 | 51 | L7 v L8 | 52 |
|  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| **3** | W55 v W56 | 60 | W51 v W52 | 58 | W53 v W54 | 59 | W49 v W50 | 57 |
|  | L55 v L56 | 64 | L51 v L52 | 62 | L53 v L54  | 63 | L49 v L50 | 61 |
|  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| **4** | L25 v L26 | 35 | W25 v W26 | 33 | W29 v W30 | 37 | L29 v L30 | 39 |
|  | L27 v L28 | 36 | W27 v W28 | 34 | W31 v W32 | 40 | L31 v L32 | 40 |
|  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| **5** | W33 v W34 | 41 | W35 v W36 | 43 | W37 v W38 | 45 | W39 v W40 | 47 |
|  | L 33 v L34 | 42 | L35 v L36 | 44 | L37 v L38 | 46 | L39 v L40 | 48 |
|  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **COURT 5** | **COURT 6** | **COURT 7** | **COURT 8** |
|  | **GAME** |  | **GAME** |  | **GAME** |  | **GAME** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 17 v 18 | 9 | 21 v 22 | 11 | 25 v 26 | 13 | 29 v 30 | 15 |
| 19 v 20 | 10 | 23 v24 | 12 | 27 v27 | 14 | 31 v 32 | 17 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| W9 v W10 | 21 | W11 v W12 | 22 | W13 v W14 | 23 | W15 v W16 | 24 |
| L9 v L10 | 53 | L 11 v L12 | 54 | L13 v L14 | 55 | L15 v L16 | 56 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| W17 v W18 | 25 | W19 v W20 | 26 | L17 v L18 | 29 | L21 v L22 | 31 |
| L23 v L24 | 32 | W23 v W24 | 28 | L19 v L20 | 30 | W21 v W22 | 27 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| W63 v W64 | 70 | L61 v L62 | 71 | W57 v W 58 | 65 | L57 v L58 | 67 |
| W61 v W62 | 69 | L63 v L64 | 72 | W59 v W60 | 66 | L59 v L60 | 68 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| W65 v W66 | 73 | W67 v W68 | 75 | W69 v W70 | 77 | W71 v W72 | 79 |
| L65 v L6674 | 74 | L67 v L68 | 76 | L69 v L70 | 78 | L71 v L72 | 80 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |