

2019 - Record entries for GC Division 2 and 3 Pennants

In Division 2: 21 teams from 17 clubs - 4 zones - 130 different players- 56 Tests.

In Division 3: 18 teams from 14 clubs - 4 zones - 120 different players - 48 Tests.

And all this croquet was played between 20 February and 6 May!

Special thanks to the team captains/organisers who arranged play sessions and submitted results. Thanks also to the members in the participating clubs who set up lawns and provided catering. Finally, thank you to the referees who officiated at zone tests. You were all vital to the success of this competition!

****** Division 2 Finals were held on Friday May 3 ******



Division 2 teams L to R: Newcastle NP, RSGC, Chatswood and Jamberoo.

The elimination semi-finals were mostly played in sunny conditions. All the matches between Jamberoo and Newcastle National Park were completed in 2 games with Newcastle NP being the winners - 2 matches to 1. In the other semi-final, Royal Sydney and Chatswood won one singles match each and 1 game each in the Doubles. So the outcome hinged on the winner of the third Doubles game. Every hoop was hotly contested, with Chatswood eventually winning through. Overall, in the contest between Royal Sydney and Chatswood, each team had scored a total of 47 hoops! Couldn't get much closer than that!!!



After a brief lunch break, play started in the Final between Newcastle NP and Chatswood. Then the clouds came over and the rain fell! Puddles formed on the lawns and play was abandoned for about 30mins. The rain eased, the puddles soaked away and play was resumed. Newcastle NP won the Final - 2 matches to 1.
Pamela Barnwell (captain - holding certificate), Judy Chidgey and L to R at back Derek Bull, David Kelly, Chris Gill.

Thank you to referees Lynda Toms (TR), John Eddes and Ian Subbi.

**** Division 3 Finals were held on Monday May 6 ****



Division 3 teams L to R: Mosman White, Sutherland, Nelson Bay L and Wollongong

The four zone winning teams gathered in glorious sunshine to play the two elimination semi-finals: Sutherland played Nelson Bay and Wollongong played Mosman White. The singles matches between Sutherland and Nelson Bay were each completed in two games - with one win to each team. Each team had won one game in the Doubles match and the third game in the doubles match would decide who proceeded to the Final. At hoop 10 in the third game the score was 5 all. Each side had opportunities to win through but Nelson Bay eventually took the next two hoops giving their team the victory and the opportunity to play in the Final.

In the other semi-final, Wollongong and Mosman White each won a singles match and were one game each in the doubles. Once again, it came down to the third game in the doubles to determine who played in the Final. Wollongong eventually won this game 7-6.

All matches in the Final between Nelson Bay and Wollongong went to three games, with total hoops scored in each match differing by only one or two hoops. Each team had won one singles match and the score in the doubles match was one game each. So, once again, it came down to the final doubles game to decide the winner. The sun had sunk below the hedge and the entire lawn was in shadow, when the winning hoop was scored by Wollongong.



Photo shows Hagen Kreusser (team captain) at the back with Irene Irlam, Robyn Sim and Susan Bremner L to R in the front. Other players for Wollongong not playing in the Final were Olga Hough, Robert Loane, Elizabeth Rees and Robynne Thompson.

Thank you to referees Lynda Toms (TR), Kaye Martin and Michael Strickland.

I'm looking forward to another record breaking year for these competitions in 2020!

Lorraine Hatfield
(Tournament Manager for Divisions 2 & 3)