

HEAD DOWN AND FOLLOW THROUGH

March 2020

Welcome to HEAD DOWN AND FOLLOW THROUGH, the new newsletter of Croquet NSW. We plan a monthly newsletter, looking to coming events, as well as reporting on the past.

For years Wendy Fothergill did a wonderful job editing our quarterly newsletter and we extend our thanks to her for doing so.

Times are changing and so is the newsletter. As editor the content I plan will be a mixture of reports on initiatives, on club events, some tips on play, Board activities, coaching opportunities, croquet events you can enter and profiles of clubs you have never thought to visit.

Tim Murphy is the CNSW AC 3 and under Champion for 2020

Of all the CNSW events many consider the “3 and under” championship as the best and the most fun. It has just finished at Tempe, and as usual had a very strong field. It also had a tough field. The games on Saturday were played in torrential rain. It was a credit to the lawns that they did not flood, and a mark of the players’ powers of endurance.

Past winners include such illustrious names as Trevor Basset, Jim Nichols, Nick Chapman, and for the last two years on his home lawns Rob Elliott. But triumphant in 2020 is Tim Murphy, to add what will become another illustrious name.

Played as round robins in three blocks. In the Blue Block Alan Honey (Canberra) led the way with Peter Landrebe (Cammeray) runner up. Red Block saw Jim Nichols (Wagga Wagga) just ahead of Alix Verge (Royal Sydney Golf Club). Equal on wins, Jim was one ahead on

Wendy had deadlines to meet and so will I for the monthly editions. I plan to coerce and badger people to regularly send me items to include. I don’t need elegant prose, I will happily edit anything you send me. We will carry a few photos in each edition. Six pages is the monthly target.

The old quarterly newsletter was printed and mailed. The new monthly edition will be emailed to Club Secretaries to pass on to club members by email or in print. Later we will email direct to everyone who has their email on the CNSW members’ database.

Please enjoy, and contribute,

Peter Martin Editor

the hoop countback. Black Block was won by Alison Sharpe (Killara) with Tim Murphy (Canberra) close behind.

In the semi-finals Tim Murphy overcame Alison Sharpe 26-20 and Alan Honey beat Jim Nichols 26-0. It was two colleagues from the Canberra Club in the final, Tim winning 26-4.

Just how good are these players? In the three days there were eight triple peels, including two in the rain. Of the 35 matches only one was not pegged out before the time limit.

All the players, five Ladies and ten Gentlemen, were from the Sydney/Canberra area with two exceptions. Jim Nichols came from Wagga. Mike Gidding from Ballina in the far north is to be congratulated on his first tilt at this title and his 1,400 kilometer round trip to get there.

Many thanks to all the organisers, referees and helpers who contributed to the event.

Reg Bamford is World Champion again

Reg Bamford of South Africa won his sixth world AC Championship in a splendid display of Accuracy and endurance. In the final he beat rising star 21 year old Matthew Essick from the USA. Eighty of the world's best AC players were in Victoria for the 2020 World Championships. Twelve of NSW's finest qualified and went down to Melbourne seeking fame. Players were divided into eight groups of ten for a round robin before the top four in each group played knock out games to find the winner. In his block Peter Landrebe starred winning all his nine games. In the knock-out section none of the NSW players managed to get through the first round. The skill level was very high. Of the 92 matches in the knock our rounds 42% were decided by triple peels. Our NSW players may be a little disappointed but the rest of us salute them. To have qualified for the World Championship is a major achievement, something that most of us can only dream about. Well done all of you: Peter Landrebe, Jim Nichols, Ted Salter, Trevor Bassett, Alan Walsh, Tim Murphy, Alison Sharpe, Rosie Landrebe, Gareth Denyer, Alan Honey, Kerry-Ann Organ and Rob Elliott

What's coming up?

Maitland's Sweet Pea event is fully subscribed: Clearly a well run tournament, an attractive format and a good reputation. A packed schedule from 14-16 March, all Doubles play, Round Robins of level play followed by handicap play. 14 clubs are represented. Two couples from Coutts Crossing, Marilyn and Royce Wilson and Jan and Keith Brodie will be playing in their first tournament. Be gentle with them guys.

Young's Autumn GC Carnival has also attracted a crowd, and is full.

Wagga Wagga's Autumn GC Carnival is not yet fully subscribed, despite the \$500 in prize money! 18-21st March, call Kay Allcock on 0419 239 767. Singles play in blocks by handicap, doubles with a partner randomly drawn. Yes.....\$500 in prize money.

Ricochet Open Doubles The CNSW 2020 Championship

One CNSW event has moved north in 2020, to wonderful Ballina on the north coast. Hosted jointly by Ballina and Ballina Cherry Street it will be played on 9 and 10 June. 2 hour 26 point games, three games per day. \$40 per team. Contact Tournament manager Richard Hughes on ballinacroquet@gmail.com or register online on the CNSW web site. Never been to Ballina? It's a gem on the coast, June's weather will be very good and the Ballina lawns are the best. Come on up, don't let the Northerners dominate this one.

CNSW AC Bronze Singles Championship 2020

Love AC but your handicap still hovers around 11 and above. Then this is for you. The State Bronze Single Championship, 27 to 30 April hosted by the Killara Club. Meet and play against people who are at the same level as you. Enter on the CNSW web site or, if you want to see whether it is truly the tournament for you, talk to Susan Howland at the Killara Club on 0419 986 302

Sawtell Three Days of Ricochet. 2-4 April.

At the CNSW AGM in August, Jenny Arnold, the Sawtell Secretary was given a special award for her work at Sawtell, and for the super way she runs their tournaments. If you have not been to a Jenny Arnold event, try this. Three days in beautiful Sawtell. Register online or call 0411 197 452. You will not be disappointed.

From the Chair

In previous newsletters we have talked about finances. You already know that Steve Miles is the treasurer. He has now changed our accounts to Bendigo Bank and produced a detailed budget for 2020 and 2021. Finances are tight, costs rise and we are looking at our options. We will need to increase CNSW income but we still plan to support the CNSW community where we can. This can happen in many ways and the broader community may like to share experiences of success (or even resources) with the wider community via the Newsletter.

We have planned a series of workshops for club committees and for club members. These are in response to your feedback to my questionnaire last year. Topics will include: the new GC and AC rules and what they mean to players, a guide to handicapping your members, a workshop on how to run a great event (club, open, or promotional), what we can all do to improve croquet's image and growth, both as individuals and as clubs, getting grants and more coaching sessions. Ambitious plans and they will not all happen at once.

The Strategic plan has been finalized and the issue of marketing our sport will be our focus for 2020 and beyond. The

Constitution has been reviewed and past comments acknowledged; input from our in house experts (Ted Griffin and Michael Strickland) have been received and we expect it out for comment soon. Big thanks to them. While we are all impatient for progress we must recognize that everyone involved in CNSW in any position is a volunteer, using their spare time.

Policies are being revised, merchandise is being inventoried and assessed...any ideas you have about this please email Rosie our secretary! The Merchandise Officer role is not filled at this point while we continue our review of the organisation, so for now you need to contact our Secretary. You will have seen the email about problems getting rule books. Please contact her directly with any issues, and thanks to the members who brought it to our attention!

I know David Stanton has asked clubs about hosting CNSW events. This may bring an opportunity to your area to see and mix with players from all over NSW. So put your hand up for your area to be included! We can help with lawn readiness and perhaps overlap the event with some coaching!

Warm regards,
Kate Elliott

New CNSW Board Member

While we are all impatient to progress we must recognize that everyone involved in CNSW in any position is a volunteer, using their spare time.

The Board had two vacancies, one has been filled in February by Peter Martin, the secretary of Coutts Crossing. He brings extra skills and experience in the form of Marketing, Promotion, Publicity and Image. He will produce the monthly newsletter and administer the CNSW Facebook Page.

Another resolve is to help all clubs with their images as generated through Facebook and local media. Peter came to croquet late, is a keen AC player whose handicap continues to come down. His wife, Gillian, also plays, AC, GC and Ricochet. He came to live in Australia ten years ago and found the local croquet club with a handful of members. He has been the main force in pushing membership to over 60. Look out for this handsome man with the beautiful blue eyes, he could get your name in the paper.

Cessnock Croquet Club



Cessnock is in the Hunter Valley. Nearest clubs are Branxton, Maitland and Toronto. They were founded just six years ago when a group of local residents who had an interest in croquet called a meeting at Cessnock Public Library. Thirty people turned up and a club was formed. They acquired access to an old bowls rink and “clubhouse” on Hunter Health New England District land. It had not been used for 20 years. The building was in a bad state and the “lawn” had little grass, just dirt and weeds. It took a lot of resolve to turn this into a lawn and a real clubhouse. At first all the work was done by members. The clubhouse was made usable and gradually the “lawn” began to resemble a croquet lawn. They earned the help they got along the way. This was recognized on Australia Day 2015 when they were presented with a award by Cessnock City Council for outstanding local parkland improvements.

If you make that amount of effort other rewards come. It caught the eye of the local Bunnings. As part of their outreach to communities they brought along a crew, painted the clubhouse and refurbished the kitchen. Now Cessnock looks like a prosperous club going places.

December 2019 they were able to establish an additional lawn which included an underground irrigation system. This project

was mainly funded by a CBP grant and the watering system was from club funds.

The 40 members play Golf Croquet on Tuesday and Friday mornings. They have an imbalance: too many ladies, too few men. Recently they decided the maintenance of the lawns was beyond the muscle power of the members, and now employ a contractor. Their fees are \$6 per day which includes morning tea; at this level they have no complaints.

They have great ideas. To raise funds for their club they have a guessing competition for a Wood Mallet, total value \$450. Maximum 100 tickets at \$10 each to be sold. The winner will be able to have the mallet made to their individual specification.

Some things could be better. Most members come for “social” play and they are not yet able to raise a team to play pennants. They have a good relationship with other nearby clubs and plan social visits to each other. Visitors are always welcome.

Like many clubs they have difficulty in getting anyone to put their hand up and say they will be publicity officer. And yet the local paper, The Advertiser, gives them excellent publicity when they try.

This is a club with enterprise, deserving of your support. Next time you are near the Hunter Valley, mark them down as a place

to visit. They are on Facebook: "Cessnock Croquet Club", or talk to their hard working President George Campbell on 0402 016 752.

Croquet for Dementia Patients

With the onset of dementia patients often become lethargic, disinterested and develop low self-esteem. Dementia Northern Rivers is partnering with Coutts Crossing Croquet Club to overcome these problems. In February and March a group of patients with their carers will play golf croquet. Croquet is the one outdoor sport which involves a reasonable amount of exercise, sets mental tasks for patients and requires them to exercise their hand-eye coordination. Initially a ball hit firmly is an achievement, a hoop run will be a triumph. It is that kind of stimulation and success that may dramatically slow the onset of the condition. The group will have the lawns to themselves, with assistance from a handful of our members. We plan that once this becomes a regular event the carers will

become club members. Dementia Australia is watching this and plans are for a clinical analysis of the effects. Our local newspaper is keen to run an article: the reporter involved was in Aged Health Care for a number of years.

The Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre has put out a poster for this on their Facebook page and you may also see it on the Facebook page of Coutts Crossing Croquet Club.

This will be giving back to the community in a significant way. If your club would like to be kept in touch with the results email Coutts Crossings' club secretary Peter Martin on petermartin2460@gmail.com

What is the ruling?

A tip from Steve Miles.

Q. In an AC game the striker's ball hits another ball and then passes through the next hoop in play, in the correct direction. Can the striker claim the hoop?

A. The hoop counts if the other ball was not live. If the ball was live then the striker's ball must go back to that ball for a croquet, and the hoop was not made. Effectively the striker's ball becomes a ball in hand as soon as it makes the roquet. But it must not be touched in any way until all balls have come to rest.

Looking after the lawns.

Some clubs can afford to employ a groundsman. Some are looked after by their council who maintain the lawns for them. And then there are the envious rest. Volunteer members mow, white line, fertilise and spread pesticides and herbicides. Each month we plan a small section of the newsletter to give advice. It will include products to use and what should be happening at this time of the year.

March. It is almost Autumn. You have probably had a long dry Spring and Summer, followed by a deluge. If we have a few weeks of dry warm weather you can expect strong growth from the grass. It will not need fertilizer for a while. So put off spreading fertilizer till early April. After that no fertilizer till September.

The Selection Committees.

After several years of valuable service Trevor Basset has retired from the NSW AC Selection Committee to focus on his game. We all thank him for his efforts and dedication.

The Selection Committees are now

AC Mike Hughes, Rob Elliott and David Stanton

GC Peter Freer, Peter Montague, Alix Verge, and John Levick

These are the people to impress. They are not only selecting teams but also looking out for talent to nurture for the future.

Golf Croquet ?

If this edition of Croquet Matters seems light on news about **GC**, that is because this seems to be the peak AC season, while for GC it is all about local pennant activities. The balance will be righted in future.

No more cheques, please.

CNSW is moving to a no cheques status for its banking. All payments to CNSW should be by bank transfer. We must know what you are paying for. So don't forget to enter your event code and name when paying for CNSW

events. It makes the Treasurer's life a lot easier! And remember that we are now banking with Bendigo Bank. Details will be on your sign up confirmation. The Treasurer thanks you.

Each month we plan to profile a club, not one of the well-known and large clubs, but a small club with ambition. Where to start: I stuck a pin in the map and came up with Cessnock. Would your club like to be profiled?

The Board still has one vacancy. There will be a formal request for expressions of interest sent out, but you could find out now what is involved. If you could think you could contribute first talk to one of the Board and get an idea of what is involved.

Contributions to **HEAD DOWN AND FOLLOW THROUGH** can be made by email to petermartin2460@gmail.com or by phoning 0438 999 204.

What to send in:

Report on a recent event/tournament Upcoming events/tournaments

Changes at a club A grant you have obtained In Memoriam

Important club anniversaries Questions/problems you would like advice on

An initiative you would like to share Comments on equipment, mallets, clips, lights, pegs
lawn maintenance tips and problems.

The editor reserves the right to amend any contribution make it fit editorial policy.