

CROQUET NSW NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Board has recently agreed to incorporate recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Croquet NSW tournaments and events. An Acknowledgement of Country is an opportunity for anyone to show respect for traditional owners and the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to country. It can be given by both non-indigenous people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

There are no set protocols or wording, though often a statement may take the following form:

"I'd like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, the (people) of the (nation) and pay my respects to Elders past and present."(Reconciliation Australia.

We have asked the Tournaments Committee to incorporate an Acknowledgement of Country statement at the beginning of Croquet NSW Tournaments. The statement can be made verbally or incorporated into written programs or similar documents if appropriate. We also encourage Managers of Club Tournaments to also incorporate these protocols into the formalities for major Club Tournaments and Events.

ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES IN NSW & ACT



Reconciliation NSW

'Croquet NSW acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands of NSW on which we meet and enjoy croquet. We pay our respects to elders past and present.'



BOARD UPDATE

The board met by Zoom on February 16 and as usual had a full agenda, with all six board members attending (we are still looking for a seventh!).

Constitution

Work on the new constitution is close to release. The exposure draft received sixteen submissions, all well thought out and containing many points. We really appreciated such great feedback. Each point was considered by the Constitution sub-committee and substantive issues were referred to the board for consideration. The board discussed whether or not we should reply to each individual but, on recommendation from the subcommittee, decided to develop an explanatory memorandum covering the reasons for the proposed changes to the constitution and expose this to the general membership with a Zoom meeting. Our target is to get the constitution approved by June 30, 2021.

Tempe

There have been important developments with the lease and management of the Tempe site. As you know over 20 CNSW tournaments are held at Tempe each year as well as training days for state teams and special events. Cooks River Croquet Club manage the lawns on behalf of NSW and also use the site for their club members. CRCC have recently reconfigured the site to provide four lawns as well as a play area for Concordia Club who run the club house on the site. Inner West Council is keen to finalise the current site arrangements and consolidate the CNSW position at the site. This will mean some changes in our relationship with CRCC as CNSW remains the lessee. This will be the focus of our March meeting so watch this space.

Hubs

Over 70% of our members live outside Sydney yet most of CNSW activities are focused in Sydney. It was great to see the large turn up for coaching accreditation courses held in Newcastle and Canberra. CNSW is looking at designating some country clubs as “hubs” so that CNSW events and workshops can be held on a more regular basis at central locations. These hubs will of course need financing. If you have any ideas on this concept, please let us know your thoughts.

Tournaments

For many members, playing Pennants is the highlight of their playing year. CNSW has agreed to a proposal to pay lawn costs when a mid point venue is required for clubs that are more than two hours apart.

CNSW will also be introducing a special badge to recognise retiring golf referees.

Membership

Our membership has grown to over 3,000 members which is about the same level as a year ago. Many clubs have reported strong growth in new members which has offset the loss from members who decided to stop playing croquet during the COVID-19 restrictions.

Having welcomed Bundanoon Croquet Club in January it was very pleasing to approve a membership application from Elanora Country Club. The board also discussed a program to attract more clubs into the sport. I am sure many of you know players from non-affiliated clubs. Richard Hughes has also agreed to be Ricochet Development Officer. Ricochet is growing fast – It is AC without bending down and GC with a bigger variety of shots!

Steve Miles, Treasurer

FROM OUR NORTHERN CORRESPONDENT

A CNSW Tournament comes north.

The CNSW GC Division 3 Championships are to be held in Ballina later this year. They will be hosted jointly by the Ballina and Ballina Cherry Street Clubs. They share the two superb lawns in the centre of town. But two lawns will not be enough and matches will also be played at nearby Lismore and Byron Bay. Will Handicap 9 and above players travel from Sydney to Ballina? Perhaps, but the take up of Northern Clubs is likely to be huge, with one club expecting to send eight players. The involvement of the Northern Rivers clubs will be important and the excitement has already led to former players getting involved. Some will remember Max Donati, a former Australian Champion, who now fits in croquet at Byron Bay among his many other interests. This tournament has brought him back to being very active again. The dates are 14-18 July, the weather will be excellent. Get your entry in as it is expected that this event will fill up soon. But it may leave David Stanton with an interesting problem. If a CNSW



1Coaching at Ballina Croquet Club for U3A

championship event is oversubscribed, are the late entries excluded? If you qualify for entry, should you be refused entry because there is insufficient lawn space? What a nice problem to have.

A Huge missed Opportunity.

If you listen to the people who attended the Greg Bury and Barb Piggott introduction to the Croquet Australia Academy, and associated events in Newcastle recently, you will quickly detect the enthusiasm that it has provoked about the future of croquet, and of clubs in NSW. Coaching is about to be transformed throughout Australia. You need to be sure your Club Coaches benefit from the new initiative. From my club Simon Cook went down to Newcastle. He came back pumped up about the future and how we can coach, at the same time ensuring that being coached is great fun. We tried out

the new methods. Our GC players loved every minute of it. The new literature for coaches which explains the best way to coach is superb. It will all be available soon on the Croquet Australia web-site, as will a series of excellent videos. My club has already purchased a laptop with a very large screen for our club house, to view the videos during coaching days.

And the missed opportunity? That was mine. I had registered to drive down to Newcastle, but for various minor reasons, opted out, hoping that the Greg Bury-Barb Piggott show would come around again soon. Big mistake: it will not happen soon, perhaps not at all. And I missed it: d*mn!

Ricochet gets a Northern Boost

You can feel the buzz around croquet in the north of NSW. The GC Div 3 championship is coming north, membership numbers are growing, and we now have the NSW coordinator of one of our codes, Ricochet. The excellent and enthusiastic Richard Hughes, a former CNSW board member, and enthusiastic player at Ballina, has put up his hand and will coordinate Ricochet throughout the State. For the growing number of Ricochet players this is good news and you can expect Ricochet events and championships to proliferate.

La Nina rampant

Northern NSW has been hit hard by La Nina during January. Not only a wet January but cold too. At my club, Coutts Crossing, we had our lawns laser levelled and top dressed early in December. Then it rained, and rained. The soil here is clay, with a couple of feet of sand on top and then earth. But the sand and earth are so saturated that new rain just sits on top asking to be evaporated. We have not played for 81 days. But perhaps that is good preparation for tournaments. Our Simon Cook travelled to Orange for their AC Carnival. Having arrived in a

torrential downpour, he felt quite at home, and without a single game under his belt for three months, won his first two games easily. Who needs to practice?

Peter Martin (Coutts Crossing)

RICOCHET DEVELOPMENT OFFICER APPOINTED

Richard Hughes from Ballina Club has been appointed NSW Ricochet Development Officer. Richard has recently been appointed an Examining Ricochet Referee, and completed his Ricochet Level 2 coaching qualifications. Richard has already liaised with Lynda Davis, ACA Ricochet Director so that current Ricochet referees have their qualification expiry date extended by 12 months. Richard will work with Margaret Rose Thomson to update Ricochet Referee qualifications during this time. Contact Richard at ricochet@croquet-nsw.org for further information. We thank Richard for volunteering for this important role, and look forward to the development of ricochet in the state.



CROQUET ACROSTIC

Coloured balls

Run through hoops

On verdant sward, points are scored,

Quick-wittedly,

Uniquely,

Enjoyably.

Tactics rule, skill's the tool!

Thanks to **Terry Abbott**
(Chatswood)

HOW TO BECOME A GC REFEREE?

If you've wondered about the process to becoming accredited as a GC referee, it is set out on the website under **Refereeing** as follows:

1. You notify State Director Refereeing-GC (gcreferee@croquet-nsw.org) that you are interested in becoming a GC referee.
Include a couple of sentences about your GC playing experience so far.
2. You complete the Community Officiating General Principles Course prepared by Sport Australia. This course takes about 4 hours to complete (can be done in separate blocks of time) and is available online at: https://www.sportaus.gov.au/coaches_andOfficials. Save your 'Certificate of completion' and notify State Director Refereeing-GC of the date completed and the certificate number.

3. You will then be sent the ACA Open Book - Home Preparatory Examination to be completed in your own time. Also included will be contact details for your regional Examining Referee.

4. Liaise with your regional Examining Referee about learning the practical aspects of referee training.

5. Complete the Practical examination. This will be conducted by an Examining Referee and takes about 2 hours. It involves: (i) an assessment of your practical refereeing skills and (ii) 40 oral questions (a pass is at least 36 correct answers ie 90%)

COACHING UPDATE

Following the accreditation of new coaches, CNSW is expecting an increase in demand for coach training. To meet this demand, Pam Gentle has agreed to take on the role of **Coaching Co-ordinator** to facilitate coaching applications and match them up with suitable trainers (Presenter/Assessors). The new documentation is available on the [Coaching](#) link on the website. Please forward your coaching application forms to [Pam](#), via your Club Captain/Coaching Co-ordinator or Secretary. Don't forget to include/apply for your [Working with Children Check](#) in NSW, or [Working with Vulnerable People Registration](#) in the ACT. The website has been updated with newly accredited coaches listed separately from those accredited under the old scheme. Your coaching accreditation remains valid until its expiry date.

INTRODUCTION TO CROQUET: A CASE STUDY AT STRATHFIELD

The introduction of new players to club croquet can take many forms. The course studied here was based on the belief that aspiring croquet players need not only develop rudimentary croquet skills, but also should interact socially with each other, the coaches and other club members. The design also attempted to scaffold the new knowledge and skills of the initiates by exploring the way croquet has evolved and by introducing them to some of different forms of mallet sports which are a product of that evolution.

The free course, *A Taste of Croquet*, was conducted for first-time players of croquet at Strathfield Croquet Club for 3-hours a day on 6th, 13th and 20th November 2020. The target group was the membership of the University of the Third Age (U3A), an organization whose membership is mainly retirees.



The aims of the *Taste of Croquet* course were for the participants:

- To have fun,
- Be intellectually stimulated
- Have social interactions
- Enhance their sense of well-being
- Learn some new skills

Most courses which introduce new players to croquet focus exclusively on work on the lawns, and the practical business of learning skills, strategies and rules. This course had two major components: on-the-lawns, and off-the-lawns. A coordinator was in regular communication with the participants and ensured that the practical, and the clubhouse elements of the course, were kept in balance. The course had three

distinguishing features.

1. An articulated, on-field program, implemented by experienced coaches, with a coach for every two participants. This was complemented by an off-the-field program focused on participant concerns, the evolution of croquet, social interaction and course evaluation. All activities were scheduled and the timeslots were adhered to. Interactions between club members, coaches and participants were encouraged.

2. A clear distinction between the role of the course coordinator and the coaching coordinator. This meant that one could give full attention to working with the participants when they were off-the lawns, and the other could focus on all aspects of coordinating the work on the field.

3. A number of away-from-the-club contacts, were made prior to, during and after the conduct of activities at the club. The coaches referred the participants to resources to consolidate their

learnings. Some of these were on the club website which also served as a weekly verbal and pictorial diary of events.

A survey conducted after the course

confirmed that the participants felt that they had fun, were intellectually stimulated, had social interactions, had an enhanced sense of well-being and learnt some new skills.

Club croquet players have experienced these benefits. This case study provides evidence that carefully designed croquet courses can help retired people to feel they have enhanced their lives in ways which are generally valued by organisations involved in the provision of activities for retirees.

The course schedule, evaluation form, and further information can be provided by Bob Phillips bobphillips@bigpond.com

MYALL PARK CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2021

Myall Park began as the Hawks Nest Tea Gardens Croquet Club, formed in 1988 by seven well-known local ladies: Gwen Pye, Gwen Wiseman, Joan Woods, Audrey Woods, Mary Collins, Ruth Coxon and Eileen Webb playing on the Witt St sports field.



Croquet Courts at the Myall Park Sporting Facility were established following the ladies' negotiations with Great Lakes Council and games commenced in April 1991.

An Irrigation system was installed in 1991/2 with funds donated by the Tea Gardens Hawks Nest Progress Association and RSL Sub Branch. Bryne Carr with the help of Lions Club and Hawks Nest Golf Club members helped to have two lawns ready for play in early 1992.

In February 1992 the club changed it's name to The Myall Park Croquet Club and was officially incorporated as a not for profit club on 15th January 1992 by the Public Officer Monica Buckley.

Further negotiation with Great Lakes Council and fund raising by all members together with donations from the Hawks Nest Caravan Park and the Tea Gardens Hawks Nest Progress Association, allowed the court fencing to be erected by Council in February 1994.



With continued fund raising efforts by the dedicated members a Pavilion was built by October 1996 and in 1997 Ian Schofield and Col Woods erected the double garage for the lawn maintenance equipment. Successful sports grants and

assistance from G L C between 2013 and 2019, enabled the construction of a toilet facility, conversion of the garage into a clubhouse and an extension to house the playing equipment and lawn maintenance machines.



2021 is the 33rd foundation year and 30th MPCC Anniversary and will be celebrated on **Saturday 10th April at 10am** with a BBQ and **COME AND TRY DAY** and all will be **WELCOME FOR THIS EVENT** subject to Covid 19 restrictions.

Please call Tony 49970816 to have the initial three free sessions on Thursday mornings at 9.30am.

**Tony Jones, Publicity,
Myall Park Croquet Club**

TOURNAMENTS COMING UP

Three days of Ricochet at Sawtell are being held 26-28 March, entries close 19 March.

NSW Open Men's GC Singles, 27-29 March, Tempe, entries close 15 March

NSW Open Womens' GC Singles, 9-11 April, Tempe, entries close 2 April

2021 Gold Coast Tweed AC Tournament, 3-11 July, at a range of locations, entries close 4 June.

Check out the [Events](#) tab on the CNSW website.

COVID GUIDELINES UPDATE

The latest CNSW COVID guidelines as at 15 February are on the CNSW website. Note the relaxing of internal space requirements.

ACA AGM

A reminder that the AGM for Croquet Australia is on Monday 22 March, 5pm. Delegates and Board members/nominees can view via Croquet Australia's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

WINNERS ARE GRINNERS

Congratulations to **David Scott (Cherry St Ballina)**, runner up in the **Queensland GC Mens Open Championships**, 13, 14 February, Windsor and Toombul, Qld. Murray Tinker (Caloundra) was the winner. And well done **Greg Porter** (Cherry St Ballina) runner up in the Plate. Congratulations to **Rosemary Landrebe and Peter Montague** (Cammeray/Killara) winner of the NSW

AC 5 & Under Doubles, 20-21 Feb, Tempe, from **Elizabeth Montague and Peter Landrebe (Killara/Cammeray)** with 1 net hoop difference. Check [Croquet Scores](#) for more results

WCF NEWS

Treasurer vacancy

The post of World Croquet Federation Treasurer is currently vacant. The WCF Management Committee wishes to appoint a successor by no later than 30 April 2020 and the closing date for applications is 31 March 2021.

Website update

The WCF website has had a refresh. Take a look. <https://worldcroquet.org/>

AC LAWS UPDATED

The WCF Council approved the 7th Edition of the Association Croquet Laws on 24th February 2021. It has been decided that the new Laws will apply in Australia from 1st July 2021.

Training materials and a simple exam are being prepared to reaccredit referees in the new Laws. For more information refer to [ACA News](#).

SPORT NSW GRANTS

Women Leaders in Sport (WLIS) Program

This program aims to provide funding for development opportunities and programs which enable more women to reach their full leadership potential in the sports industry. 2021 applications are now open and will close at **5.00pm on Wednesday, 17 March 2021**. [Click here](#) to learn more, or download the grant guidelines [here](#).