

# NEWSLETTER

February 2023



## IN THIS EDITION

Club Hubs  
2023 GC Pennants  
Alstonville Club celebrates  
Board Update  
ACA News  
Court lighting guidelines  
Winners are Grinners  
Tournaments Coming Up  
... and other news

## CLUB HUBS NEWS

The CNSW Club Hubs of Canberra, Coutts Crossing, Port Macquarie, Strathfield and Toronto have been operating for around six months. All the Hubs have hosted various referee/coaching workshops and have conducted some Come & Try days around their club areas.

The Hubs are preparing a detailed Calendar of events for 2023 which will be available for clubs to enrol members in various activities.

Christine Edlund (President, Ballina Cherry Street Croquet Club) has been appointed as the CNSW Club Hubs Coordinator. Congratulations and thank you Christine. Christine will work closely with all the Hubs to assist them in preparing workshops and presentations throughout their Hub region.

Ray Chapman is the CNSW Board contact for Club Hubs and Ray will present information and requests from Christine to the CNSW Board.



## MEET CHRISTINE EDLUND

I am a member of Ballina Cherry Street Club situated in the Northern Rivers area. Croquet, as a sport, was always in my retirement plan after I saw a game played when I lived in Sydney. I moved to Ballina about 10 years ago from Far North Queensland where I had my own business for 5 years before becoming a fulltime carer to my mother. I joined the BCSCC 4 years ago, play Golf Croquet and more recently Ricochet.

We are friendly, supportive club to both our members and the community, promoting croquet as a sport in the local high schools as well as having special croquet days for All Abilities Groups.

I am interested in the concept of The Hubs as I see it as another way of promoting the sport and encouraging players to develop and hone their skills.

## CLUB HUB FORUM

The inaugural Club Hub forum was held on the 16 January via Zoom.

Attending were Kate McLoughlin (Chair CNSW), Ray Chapman (Hub CNSW Board contact), Christine Edlund (Hub Coordinator), Peter Freer (Canberra), Tim Woolford-Smith (Port Macquarie), Bridget Earle (Port Macquarie), Petula Shun (Strathfield) and Marion Davies (Toronto). Apology from Simon Cook (Coutts Crossing) who unfortunately had computer access problems.

Various issues were discussed to clarify Club Hub's roles and responsibilities and CNSW's role in assisting Club Hubs in providing presenters and trainers.

Christine Edlund will be working with the Hubs to provide presenters/facilitators as required by the Hubs.

CNSW Board to consider changes to Schedule B of the Club Hub schedule of approved expenses.

The Club Hubs are working on a detailed calendar of events for 2023 which when completed will be circulated to all clubs.

Also Club Hub events may be available along with other club events on the CNSW website.

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 and emerging

## BOARD MEMBERS

Chair: Kate McLoughlin  
Deputy Chair: Simon Cook  
Treasurer: Steve Miles  
Secretary: Rik Mills  
Board Member: Ray Chapman  
Board Member: Fidy Westgarth  
Newsletter: Liz Friend  
[newsletter@croquet-nsw.org](mailto:newsletter@croquet-nsw.org)

Website: <https://croquet-nsw.org>  
[Croquet NSW Facebook page](#)



## FROM THE BOARD

The croquet year is now having a natural break for many clubs as they wait for their lawns to recover from lawn renovations. This has also been true for the CNSW lawns at Tempe which are also the home lawns for Cooks River Croquet club. The lawns are closed now but when they re-open CNSW players are welcome to book a session using the lawn booking sheet at [cooksrivercroquetclub.com](http://cooksrivercroquetclub.com). This natural break in play and competition is also the time when CNSW closes its financial year. This also means that CNSW needs to have an AGM and once again we will have an on-line meeting.

**Please note the CNSW AGM will be held on Monday 27 March at 7pm.**

In previous years the AGM was usually held on a Saturday morning, but this year will be held on a Monday due to clashes with other events.

Nominations for board positions are welcome but must be received by **27 February**. If you have ever thought that things could be done better, now is your chance to make a difference by joining the CNSW board. Votes for Directors or submission of any Agenda items is by a Delegate nominated by each club. We also hold a Forum following the meeting, and topics for the Forum can be sent to the Secretary.

The end of the year is also the time when CNSW renews the NSW insurance policies under ACA. CNSW pays public liability on behalf of the covered clubs and then passes this on to clubs. Because of the bulk handling, clubs receive a much lower premium than stand alone insurance. Importantly, this year's policy includes abuse insurance which is difficult to arrange.

CNSW also pays for insurance covering accidents whilst playing croquet as well as travel insurance whilst playing in CNSW tournaments. This is funded through the CNSW affiliation fee. There is more detail on the insurance program on Page 3.

Our Hub program is still in development but feedback to date has been pleasing

and it is encouraging to see the Hub clubs taking the initiative. It has been decided to provide each Hub club with a set of Gateball equipment to enable a set to be loaned to other clubs who are keen to try Gateball.

See you on a lawn somewhere.

Steve Miles, Treasurer



Bookings for the CNSW lawns at Tempe are managed by Cooks River Croquet Club who play at Tempe when CNSW is not using the lawns. Any CNSW member may book a session at Tempe by going to

<https://croquetbooking.com/book/index.php?site=69>. You will need to be registered to use this link. If you are not registered just email [cooksrivercroquetclub@gmail.com](mailto:cooksrivercroquetclub@gmail.com). The cost is \$6 per session and CRCC will issue an invoice.

## **CLUBS HOSTING CNSW EVENTS 2023**

There has been a wonderful response from Clubs to the call for hosting events, with many responses received in the last few weeks and some Clubs hosting more than one event. Thanks to Ballina/Byron Bay/Lismore (a joint effort), Cammeray, Canberra, Chatswood, Coutts Crossing, Killara, Mosman, Nowra, Port Macquarie, Strathfield and Taree. Only one CNSW event does not have a host: the AC Platinum Brooch.

## **MEET FIDYE WESTGARTH (CNSW Board Director)**



Fidy enjoys Association Croquet and Golf Croquet, and some Ricochet, and is an ACA qualified coach. She has spent some years on the management committee of Mosman Croquet Club, the largest Club in NSW, and has participated in State-level tournaments in AC and GC, as well as club competition.

As a General Board Member of Croquet NSW, Fidy is the nominated contact for coaching issues. Her key focus on the Board in the coming months is developing strategies for creating a wider interest in croquet around the community and for increasing membership across NSW.

Fidy sees croquet as both a social and a competitive activity and feels that both aspects should be valued within clubs. The COVID lockdown showed how important it was for club members to be able to get together for games whilst maintaining

COVID-safe practices. Members developed friendships and demonstrated care about each other's well-being.

Volunteering is a critical part of the enjoyment of any club and she acknowledges the reliance of clubs on their members' volunteering wherever they can, as a critical component to help everyone's enjoyment of their club.

## **CNSW INSURANCE**

CNSW participates in the insurance program run by Croquet Australia. This program has three components:

1. Public liability which this year includes a Child Abuse extension. This covers anyone involved in croquet activities including fund raising provided they are not receiving a payment. Gardening workers would be covered but not if they are paid. If you are paying workers then you should check that they have public liability cover. This policy includes \$20m cover which is required by many local councils.
2. Accident insurance for limited accident cover whilst playing croquet. This covers affiliated players.
3. Travel insurance for CNSW tournaments. This covers tournament players, officials and workers. Recently a stolen mobile phone was covered under this policy. The State team is also covered under this.

More detail on each of these covers can be found on <https://croquet-australia.com.au/insurance/>.

The cost for public liability is shared amongst the covered clubs and CNSW and this year cost \$180 per club. If your club participates in this policy they will have received an invoice in January as well as a Certificate of Insurance in late December. The remaining cost for Accident and Travel insurance is covered by CNSW and is now funded through the affiliation fee. This has added \$2.50 per member to affiliation costs.

When it comes to claim time, the first question asked is "Was the person there?" An easy way to do this is to have a register of participants for each event. Many clubs do this through an online booking system. Remember the old saying in insurance "Everyone is friends until they are not".

## **WCF GOLF CROQUET WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

NSW players have been selected to represent Australia in the WCF Golf Croquet Women's World Championships to be held Sussex, UK 7 - 14 August 2023: Jamie Gumbrell and Kate McLoughlin. They join Janine McHardy as the three Australians confirmed to play in the event. As other countries confirm places, it is likely more players will be nominated. Congratulations Jamie and Kate.



## GC PENNANTS IN 2023

The 2022 GC Pennants competitions attracted a record number of entries across all Divisions.

Will this record be beaten in 2023???

Already there are entries from 2 clubs who have not previously entered a team in any GC pennants competition - Pelican Club and Holroyd District Club. Information flyers are attached to the Pennants entries in the **Events Schedule**.

### Divisions 2 and 3

Entries close on 1 March for both these Divisions. The Division 3 Pennants Finals will be hosted by Toronto Croquet Club 22-25 May. The Finals for Division 2 are scheduled to be held 5-8 June. We are looking for a hosting offer for this event in 2023 from a club in the Southern NSW/ACT region.

### Division 1

In 2023, to avoid a rush towards the end of the year, we are trialling a longer period of Zone play for this competition. For Division 1 entries close 1 July. Sutherland Club will be hosting the Finals which are scheduled for 13-15 November.

Lorraine Hatfield, GC Pennants Manager



### ALSTONVILLE CROQUET CLUB

Alstonville Croquet Club officially opened their clubhouse on 23 January 2023. A significant achievement after years of lobbying, fund raising and commitment. A good attendance by members from the surrounding clubs and Tamara Smith, MP, State member for Ballina who worked with the club to secure the necessary grants.

Left: the Committee members

If your Club would like to share its interesting stories, and articles and photos from tournaments, please email [newsletter@croquet-nsw.org](mailto:newsletter@croquet-nsw.org) for publishing.

## UNDER 21 GC WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP - LIVE STREAMING

Croquet New Zealand will be live streaming the knock-out stages of the upcoming Under 21 GC World Championship on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February via the Whakaata Maori – Maori Active YouTube channel.

Links to YouTube:

Playlist: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjhOU3CT6E8&list=PLLRQmpt8SwYp3Qa7qx4eepvbW5BbBY513&index=2>

Day 1 KO: <https://youtu.be/sjhOU3CT6E8?list=PLLRQmpt8SwYp3Qa7qx4eepvbW5BbBY513>

Day 2 KO: <https://youtu.be/A28h5gYASzI?list=PLLRQmpt8SwYp3Qa7qx4eepvbW5BbBY513>

## NSW EIRE CUP TEAM 2023

This photo was taken whilst the Team was training in Canberra 21-22 January (photo thanks to Trevor Bassett).

Members: Back row (L:R) Pete Landrebe, Stephen Richards, Trevor Bassett, Tim Murphy, Sue Eldridge-Smith, Alison Sharpe. Front row (L:R) Stephen Pearce, Rosie Landrebe, Joanne Brown, Di Scott, and reclining, Kerri-Ann Organ. NSW are the current title holders for this national Association Croquet Championship, and we wish them well as the go in to defend their title.

The Eire Cup will be held at Cairnlea, Victoria, 17-21 March.





## ACA NEWS

The ACA has welcomed its first ever CEO, Mel Woosnam, who has written a letter of introduction, below.

*Dear Jim, ACA Board, Heads of State, HPMS, Committee Chairs and Members, Staff and Volunteers.*

*Today is my first official day as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Croquet Australia (CA). I am delighted to be appointed as the first ever CEO for CA and I look forward to working with you all to help grow, develop and advance croquet and mallet sports across and Australia and Internationally. I am very keen to get out and about and meet as many of you as I can and see*

*and learn for myself more about CA and the amazing people involved. I would like to thank Jim Nicholls and the Board for all their hard work over the last few months in getting to this point and to everyone for their warm welcome.*

*There are many people I would like to meet and speak with over the coming weeks and this will take some time. I have a meeting scheduled with Rob and Greg later today and I plan to speak with Jim and each of the Board members and Heads of State during the coming days. I will also be attending the National U21 Golf Croquet Championships next weekend at Eildon Croquet Club and look forward to meeting some of you face to face. The AGM is also planned for March so this will also be a good opportunity to meet many of the key people involved in CA.*

*Apart from getting to know the key personnel and stakeholders within CA and gaining an understanding of the operations, there are some key priorities and focus areas for myself and the Staff in the coming weeks and months. I will work closely with the Board and Staff to confirm these priorities and timelines and key to all of this will be regular and effective communication with our Member States and Territories, players, volunteers and key stakeholders.*

*I am keen to hear directly from you on how we can best work together in a collaborative way to progress croquet and mallet sports generally throughout Australia. I know everyone is very busy, but I hope we get the chance to meet either informally, at events and scheduled meetings or via videocall or telephone.*

*Thankyou once again for this wonderful opportunity and I look forward to meeting and working with you all at Croquet Australia.*

*Kind Regards, Mel*

## ACA BOARD MEETING, 25 JANUARY

The minutes of last Wednesday's Croquet Australia Board Meeting are on the website at <https://croquet-australia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/230125-Board-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>

The meeting approved the

- Gateball Tournament Regulations V1, available from the Governance/Documents page at <https://croquet-australia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Gateball-Australia-Tournament-Regulations-v1.pdf>
- revised Treasurer's Position Description, and
- Court Lighting Guidelines, available at <https://croquet-australia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Guidelines-for-Croquet-Court-Lighting.pdf>

ACA is seeking Expressions of Interest for the position of Tournament Manager at the 2023 Golf Croquet World Championships. Please pass onto your clubs or any other interested parties.

Link [Tournament Manager WCF Over 50's](#)

The 2023 Summer Edition of the [ACA Online Magazine](#) is now available on the ACA website. Please see the links below for access.

[Summer 2023 Edition – Flip pager version](#)

[Summer 2023 Edition](#)

(ACA news cont.)

A reminder that the **Croquet Australia 2023 AGM** will be held at the Victorian Croquet Centre, 65 Nobel Banks Drive, Cairnlea. Vic 3023 on Monday 20 March 2023 commencing at 9:30 a.m. AEDT.

There will be a **Strategic Discussion Forum** following the AGM which is open to all members. The purpose of such forums is for Members to:

- inform the Board of significant membership issues,
- assist the Board to design or review the organisation's strategic direction,
- discuss nationwide issues, and
- provide feedback to the Board on the results of its governance decisions in practice at the member level."

The following will be invited to attend the Strategic Forum:

- State Association Delegate or Representative
- Committee's chair or representative
- Directors of Croquet Australia

Members are encouraged to provide a precis of matters that they would like discussed in time for an agenda to be circulated with that of the AGM on 16 February 2023.



### **COURT LIGHTING**

The LED has become the standard for sports' lighting and prices have come down drastically. You will pay for the initial cost, but maintenance and energy costs plummet in the long-term, so you will save money. This photo shows 3 courts in the US which are lit by 12 poles (4 poles not shown). For most croquet clubs, it is worthwhile to consider the benefits and to seek out grants to install lighting. The link to the ACA Guidelines for court lighting is listed above. The LED is also considered to provide a better result for play as the light distribution is even, minimal glare for players and spectators, and the different ball colours are easier to identify.

### **RICOCHET NEWS**

#### **RICOCHET HANDICAP CARDS**

Clubs requiring Ricochet handicap cards should contact Richard Hughes at [ricochet@croquet-nsw.org](mailto:ricochet@croquet-nsw.org).

### **YOUR CHANCE TO BE AN AUSTRALIAN CROQUET CHAMPION**

Do you want to be the inaugural Australian Ricochet Champion 2023.

Enter <https://croquet-australia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/ACA-Tournament-Calendar-002.pdf> (MENU - Tournaments-Entry-Ricochet)

Dates: Doubles -14-16 April, Singles - 17-20 April. Location - NSW Croquet Centre, Mackey Park, Tempe NSW.

Enter today, and practice tomorrow.

For more details contact - Ray Chapman National Ricochet Coordinator  
0439240251 [chapmanray89@yahoo.com](mailto:chapmanray89@yahoo.com)





## CQ16 CHAMPIONSHIP CROQUET BALLS

Wood Mallets NZ is the agent for the CQ16 Championship balls. These balls have Championship approval till 2025.

### [Croquet Accessories & Croquet Equipment - Wood Mallets](https://www.woodmallets.com/product-category/croquet/croquet-accessories/)



Wood Mallets have been making and developing croquet sets and accessories since 1982. We stock a range of croquet hoops, croquet balls, centre pegs, clips, mallet bags, corner flags and wooden boxes any of which can be shipped worldwide by courier at highly competitive prices.

[www.woodmallets.com](https://www.woodmallets.com)

<https://www.woodmallets.com/product-category/croquet/croquet-accessories/>

## WINNERS ARE GRINNERS



*Felicity Clifton presented the Bill Clifton Memorial Trophy ("Bluebeards Trophy") to winner Mike Cleaver (above) and the Battlers Trophy, for runner up - Kerrie Wawn*

"Bluebeard's Trophy". All who attend on the day of the competition are asked to wear blue.

Whenever Bill played, his prime concern was that his opponent had a good time and enjoyed the friendly rivalry. The Bill Clifton Memorial Trophy promotes that attitude: it's not all about winning, it's about how the game is played that is important. And that's how the games were played, in the spirit of Bill Clifton's friendly rivalry. Games were level play, under the ACA Rules 2022.

Tradition decrees the winner and runner-up are the organisers of the competition the next year. Conditions are flexible and as long as the Rules of Croquet are followed, the organisers have an open hand.

Winner for 2022, Mike Cleaver, played a steady and uncompromising game to bring him a close victory from Kerrie Wawn whose adventurous style brought her home as runner-up. If there was a prize for jolly enjoyment, it would surely have gone to Felicity Clifton. Amongst the other players, David Whalley and Jim Yeo put up conspicuously valiant performances, but demonstrated that you just can't beat plain bad luck, tight hoops and unfriendly balls! In an overwhelming decision, Felicity won the best-dressed prize. Our Brains' Trust is busy planning the major events program for the reborn Lismore Croquet Club.

### LOOK OUT 2023 - HERE WE COME!

(article authorised by Fay Ross, Club Captain)

### BILL CLIFTON MEMORIAL TROPHY, 19 NOVEMBER 2022, LISMORE CROQUET CLUB

Springtime is the season of new life, and it symbolised the rebirth of Lismore Croquet Club after the floods. And what a rebirth it was, with a great, colourful, vocal and cheery crowd to enjoy the Bill Clifton Memorial Trophy, and to let the world know that Lismore Club is back up and running, and here to stay.

Lismore turned on just the right weather for the contest. The warm and bright Spring day was a fitting reminder of warm and bright Bill Clifton, who always brought Springtime wherever he went. Bill Clifton was a valued member of Lismore Club. Sadly, we lost Bill in April when he left us to play croquet on the other side of the rainbow. He came to our Club in 2016 when croquet was part of the Piazza in the Park celebrations, having tried all the Italian delicacies on offer, Bill decided to have a look at croquet. At the time, Bill, who was a very individual personality, had dyed his beard blue, therefore the trophy in his name is known affectionately in the Club as

"Bluebeard's Trophy". All who attend on the day of the competition are asked to wear blue.

Whenever Bill played, his prime concern was that his opponent had a good time and enjoyed the friendly rivalry. The Bill Clifton Memorial Trophy promotes that attitude: it's not all about winning, it's about how the game is played that is important. And that's how the games were played, in the spirit of Bill Clifton's friendly rivalry. Games were level play, under the ACA Rules 2022.

Tradition decrees the winner and runner-up are the organisers of the competition the next year. Conditions are flexible and as long as the Rules of Croquet are followed, the organisers have an open hand.

Tradition decrees the winner and runner-up are the organisers of the competition the next year. Conditions are flexible and as long as the Rules of Croquet are followed, the organisers have an open hand.

Winner for 2022, Mike Cleaver, played a steady and uncompromising game to bring him a close victory from Kerrie Wawn whose adventurous style brought her home as runner-up. If there was a prize for jolly enjoyment, it would surely have gone to Felicity Clifton. Amongst the other players, David Whalley and Jim Yeo put up conspicuously valiant performances, but demonstrated that you just can't beat plain bad luck, tight hoops and unfriendly balls! In an overwhelming decision, Felicity won the best-dressed prize. Our Brains' Trust is busy planning the major events program for the reborn Lismore Croquet Club.

### LOOK OUT 2023 - HERE WE COME!

(article authorised by Fay Ross, Club Captain)



*Bill Clifton Memorial Trophy, known as "Bluebeards Trophy" and the Battlers Trophy*

## **UNDER 21 ACA AUSTRALIAN GOLF CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIPS, 11-16 January, 2023, Eildon Croquet Club Queensland GOLD MEDAL PLAYOFF**

There were 5 young players, one from each state (except WA), who competed over 3 days for the honour of being the Australian Gold Medal winner.

The Gold Medal was won by Curtis Mead (Tas), the Silver Medal was won by Addison Matthews (QLD), third was our Ethan Gumbrell (NSW), fourth was Peter Crook (SA) and fifth George Walker (VIC).

The Gold Medal was a round robin event and Curtis Mead was undefeated and will represent Australia in the Under 21 World Golf championships in New Zealand later this year.

### **UNDER 21 DOUBLES**

The doubles had 5 pairs and was a round robin event. Ethan Gumbrell (NSW) and Curtis Mead (Tas) went undefeated to win this year's title. Addison Matthews and Tim Wright (QLD) were runners up.

### **UNDER 21 SINGLES**



The singles were a round robin of 10 players played over 2 days. Addison Matthews (QLD) was undefeated with 9 wins. Ethan Gumbrell (NSW) was runner up with 7 wins.

Addison Matthews, Ethan Gumbrell, Curtis Mead and Tim Wright will now compete in the upcoming World Under 21 championships in New Zealand. Australia wishes them good luck and hope every hoop is a good one. Congratulations to all the players on an outstanding performance in the championships.

Three extremely talented players emerged from these championships: Curtis Mead, Addison Matthews and Ethan Gumbrell.

The world of golf croquet awaits to see many more wins for these very gifted players.

*Ethan Gumbrell (NSW) with Jim Nicholls (ACA Chair)*

## **TOURNAMENTS COMING UP:**

CNSW (AC) 5 & under mixed Doubles, 18-19 February, Cammeray. Entries close 10 February.

Beryl Chambers (AC) State H/C qualifying, 3-10 March, Maitland. Entries close 24 February.

Nowra Annual (GC) Singles & Doubles, 3-6 March. Entries close 25 February.

Young Autumn Carnival (GC)(H/C), Singles & Doubles, 9-12 March.

Sawtell 3 days of Ricochet, 17-19 March. Entries close 6 March.

Maitland Sweet Pea (GC), Doubles, 18-20 March. Entries close 18 February.

Forster (GC) autumn carnival, Doubles & Singles, 20-23 March. Entries close 10 March.

Mosman (Advanced AC) Bash, Singles (H/C), 24-26 March. Entries close 9 March. Flyer attached to this newsletter.

CNSW Open women's (GC) championship, 24-26 March, Tempe. Entries close 17 March.

CNSW Open men's (GC) championship, 31 March – 2 April, Canberra. Entries close 24 March.

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