

NEWSLETTER

September 2023



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TORONTO CROQUET CLUB AND LAKE MACQUARIE CROQUET CENTRE

The Lake Macquarie Croquet Centre currently under construction at Glendale by Lake Macquarie City Council will provide a purpose-built facility for Toronto Croquet Club and the community to get active and socialise while



playing croquet. This has been a long term project with many false starts over the past 12 years but the light has at last started to shine on a new location for Toronto Croquet Club without the current restrictions of shared facilities.

Glendale is a little closer to Newcastle than the current lawns at Toronto, and Cardiff Station is quite close and a regional shopping centre is within 300m. Adequate visitor accommodation is available in the general area. There is easy access from the M1 to the area.

The new facility features six croquet courts constructed to national competition standards and year-round playing capability, including field lighting for night games. Lawns are able to be configured to allow for up to 12 Gateball courts. A club building consisting of meeting room, canteen, small office, restrooms for disabled as well as male and female facilities and a green keeper's storage area with separate chemical store is also under construction. A new pathway has been constructed from an existing carpark to allow easy access to the lawns. Total investment by Lake Macquarie City Council is in the region of \$3.2m. Get your mallets ready for the opening in early 2024.



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: Ray Chapman
Treasurer: Steve Miles
Secretary: Rik Mills
Board Member: Stephen Burns
Board Member: Fidy Westgarth
Newsletter: Liz Friend
newsletter@croquet-nsw.org

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



FROM THE BOARD

Having returned from an exciting trip to England for the Golf Croquet Women's World Championships, I want to thank Ray Chapman for taking on the role of Chair in my absence. I also thank many of the players across NSW and Australia who have been very supportive of NSW/ACT players at this competition. We are honoured to have a new world champion in Jamie Gumbrell: winning the GC Women's World Championships with her focussed and very skilful play, and her calm demeanour. And all the Australian women did our country proud in this international contest.

Jamie and myself have been interviewed by ABC Grandstand, and ABC TV, as well as the Canberra Weekly. All media is linked on our Facebook page.

In other Board news, the ACA has approved a new national logo, and NSW will be likely to adopt the new logo for NSW. More news on this over the coming months.

NSW is also finalising an agreement to introduce a new membership and event platform, to manage memberships, tournaments, communication with members and more. All clubs will have a portal to directly manage their own members with this new system. Information sessions will be held for all clubs. Further details to come.

The Tournaments Committee is reviewing the NSW tournaments program for 2024. If you have comments or suggestions on next year's program, send your suggestions to secretary@croquet-nsw.org.

The Inner West Council draft plan of management for Mackey Park is open for input

(<https://yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/planning-mackey-park-marrickville>).

As this includes the CNSW HQ/Cooks River Facility at Tempe it is of interest to players across the State. Croquet is continuing on the site, and the possibility of a new building to incorporate the Concordia Club, croquet, cricket and football has been flagged. Funding has not been put forward. Work on the carpark has been promised!

Finally, we wish the NSW Golf Croquet State team the very best, as they go to Perth to defend their title as Interstate Shield (ISS) winners, 20-24 September.

We also wish Jamie Gumbrell good fortune as she plays in the Australian Gold Medal GC Singles Championship 13-15 September, also in Perth.

As I will be away for these competitions and the Over50's in October, I thank Ray for his continued leadership of the Board.

Kate McLoughlin
Chair CNSW

The September edition of the WCF magazine, featuring Jamie Gumbrell can be found at:

<https://worldcroquet.org/september-2023-newsletter/>

REFEREE NEWS

Congratulations to Michael Chambers - a newly accredited GC referee from Mosman and Elanora Clubs!

Lorraine Hatfield

State Director of Refereeing (GC)

Croquet NSW

TWO MEMBERS OF BATHURST CITY CROQUET CLUB RECEIVE LIFE MEMBERSHIP TO THE CLUB

Annette McManus

Annette McManus joined the Bathurst City CC in 1996 when her mother Jean Reedy, a member of the club, invited Annette to come along to try croquet. The game of Association Croquet soon had Annette wanting to play more and to learn more about Association Croquet. That's where and when her love for the game and the Bathurst City CC. Being a person who always wanted to give and as a very quiet person Annette agreed to become the Club Treasurer which is a role that she has managed with dedication for over twenty years. Annette has also undertaken many other roles at the club. Annette competed in local competitions and represented Bathurst against all the other clubs in the local competition for many years. She also travelled further afield in NSW, to Canberra, and also to interstate tournaments along with Australian Croquet Events as a Bathurst representative. In all these tournaments Annette brought credit to herself and her Club for the manner in which she competed, her sportsmanship and the manner in which she was a very humble winner. Competing in the CNSW Beryl Chambers AC Event has seen Annette become the Western Region Champion and going onto the finals of the event to compete against all the winners from the other regions of NSW. As Annette's croquet skills developed, she was invited to be a member of the CNSW Development Squad for women for a number of years. It was her elegant smooth flowing style of play that caught the eye of the coaches and selectors of the CNSW State Squad. Annette has always supported others at the Club including working with new members to develop their skills. The juniors at the Club in the late 1990's and early 2000's was a group with whom Annette worked very closely. Managing and organising the Annual Bathurst AC Carnival for the last twenty years where up to 36 players from around NSW and often from Interstate would converge on the Club for a week of very competitive AC were always very successful events. Being an excellent, very modest, friendly and humble Club member who always gives her all for the benefit of other members, for the advancement of Club and for the development of croquet in general, Annette is a very worthy recipient of Life Membership of the Club. *(this is a summary of the Nomination)*



John Cook

John Cook began playing croquet in 1989 at Bathurst City CC when he had the opportunity to learn about the game that had him intrigued for many years. John liked the challenge of the variety of shots to play, skills to use and strategies to be involved and he wanted to improve his game and to do as well as he could. AC Carnivals and Tournaments were entered as the Bathurst Representative across much of NSW. At The Canberra Australia Day Holiday Weekend Tournament in the mid 1990's John represented Bathurst and was successful. Interstate Carnivals across Victoria and South Australia were other successes for John. In the Australian Open Handicap Play AC Tournament in the mid 1990's John was the runner up. Club and State Championships were competed in, again with the humble, successful play along with the dynamic forward strategic play for which John is known. Taking up coaching, John

became a Level 2 State Coach and was the Assistant Coach for the NSW Women's Development Squad for several years. At Club level, John continued to coach the new members and the more experienced players helping them to improve. Up to 25 junior players were coached by John over a ten-year period from 1995. John is quickly able to find methods to suit the individual member's skill levels and/or ability levels. As an Association Referee, John has been able to referee at State level and National level. He has been the Club's AC Carnival Tournament Referee and Handicapper for many years and other clubs from around NSW have asked John to be TR for their carnivals to which he has always responded in a positive way. Currently, as an Examining Referee for AC, John is using his knowledge to re-accredit and re-certify AC Referees and Umpires for Croquet NSW. Twice John has been nominated for his contributions to Club life for the Golden Mallet Award in which Croquet NSW recognises contributions made by individuals. The roles of President, Secretary, Treasurer and Lawn Coordinator are all ones which John has fulfilled with some being done together. He has been both the Club President and Secretary for the last 6 years.

John's contributions in numerous, tireless positive ways to the Club, to its members and to the broader croquet community show that John Cook is a very worthy recipient of Life Membership of Bathurst City Croquet Club.

(this is a summary of the Nomination)

Eric Andrews, Club Captain

CNSW INTERSTATE SHIELD TEAM (GC)

What a brilliant spring day for this group of sky blue high achievers to practise doubles pairings at Tempe in preparation for the 2023 Interstate Shield in Perth in 2 weeks.

(L:R), Sue Sellers, Mark Scruton, Liz Montague, Peter Freer, Kate McLoughlin, Ethan Gumbrell, Jamie Gumbrell, David Scott, Jill Sullivan, Kevin McGlynn and Derek Bull. (absent: Gerda Lambeck and Malcolm Powys)



WINNERS ARE GRINNERS

EVA SHORT (hcp 3 and under) AND WIN DICKINSON (hcp over 3) WOMEN'S AC EVENTS, 29-30 July, Tempe



(L:R) Kerri-Ann Organ & Joanne Brown

Eight players contested this year's events, divided into two blocks of 4 players to determine the playing order for the finals.

In the quarter finals: Kerri-Ann Organ defeated Sue Eldridge-Smith 26/1; Barbara McDonald defeated Linda Nickels 18/6; Joanne Brown defeated Nerida Taylor 13/6; and Julie Toms defeated Janelle Wilson 20/9.

In the semi finals: Kerri-Ann Organ defeated Barbara McDonald 26/5; and Joanne Brown defeated Julie Toms 26/2.

The final results saw Kerri-Ann Organ defeat Joanne Brown 26/7.

Kerri-Ann Organ added the Eva Short trophy to her win in the Womens AC event earlier in the year.

Joanne Brown won the Win Dickinson trophy as the highest place player on a handicap of above 3.

In the Z Block Sue Eldridge-Smith defeated Janelle Wilson 10/5.

CNSW (GC) SILVER BROOCH, 31 July to 2 August, Southern Highlands

Southern Highlands CC hosted the Silver Brooch Tournament, a three-day event, for players with handicaps in the 3-6 range. Twelve players, drawn from Nelson Bay, Maitland, Mosman, Canberra, Sutherland, Nowra and Jamberoo, competed for the Brooch, which was won by Ian Donald from Canberra (7-4, 6-7, 7-1).

The Runners up Plate competition was won by Dianne Bonnitcha (Sutherland).

The Tournament Referee, Rik Mills, came from Orange for the event.

While SHCC players have started to compete in Pennants events, playing matches against clubs in the Southern Region, it is the first time the Club has hosted major Croquet NSW tournament at this level. The weather took everyone by surprise on Monday 31 July and Tuesday 2 August, with players and officials reaching for the suncream, rather than scarves and gloves. Wednesday saw a brief return to normal Southern Highland winter conditions with the quarter and semi-finals being played in light drizzle, but it cleared for the final. Spectators were treated to some fine croquet, with competitors displaying great skill at the range and choice of shots - roquet, stun, jump, cannon, and promotion. The little clubhouse was underpressure to accommodate players and the catering team, who served some excellent sandwiches and soup. Club members helped with scoring and timekeeping as well as preparing the courts each day.



(L:R) Peter Gordon, Brian Mitchell, Sue Forrest, Doug Cornish, Penny Patterson and Ian Donald

4 DAYS OF GC AT SAWTELL, 4-7 August, Sawtell

The 4 days of GC at Sawtell Carnival was played early in August in typically late winter conditions – chilly mornings, sunny cloudy days, cool winds and threat of rain. We escaped the rain which started just after presentations on Monday evening – well planned!

42 players included visitors from Victoria – Benalla, Ballarat and Alexandra clubs. Plus 17 clubs all up and down the coast from Wollongong to Ballina Cherry Street in New South Wales. Players were grouped into 6 seeded blocks and a total of 252 games were played in the 4 days. A double round robin format. 13-point games. First 2 days were level play, then the second 2 days were handicap play. Competition was fierce as a majority of games were timed out.

Winners were: Block A Ken Roberts (Forster); Block B Wendy Forbes (Urunga); Block C Greg Carter (Coutts Crossing); Block D Jennie McNamara (EDSAAC), who won 10 of her 12 games and triggered twice in the 4 days; Block E Lofty Gannaway (South West Rocks); and Block F Jo Lancaster (Urunga).

(Photos below of winners, in Block order, with Club President Derek Burrows and Jenny Arnold TR)

Next Carnival event for Sawtell will be 4 days of AC, 26-29 October and there are places still available.

Jenny Arnold, Tournament Manager



CNSW DIVISION 1 MIXED GOLF DOUBLES, 21-22 August, Tempe

6 pairs contested this year's event with Kate McLoughlin returning from England where Kate was runner up in the World Women's Golf Championship event and finished 18th in the world at the end of the tournament.

To enable Interstate Shield (ISS) practice the event was conducted on the ISS format of the best of two games, where each team played each other once.

The winners were Peter Freer and Kate McLoughlin with 3 wins 0 losses and net hoops of +22. Runners up were Mark Scruton and Sue Sellers with 3 wins 1 loss and net hoops of +19.

Valuable lawn time was gained by other members of the ISS Golf Team

Liz Montague, David Scott, Kevin McGlynn and Jill Sullivan.



Kate McLoughlin and Peter Freer

GC WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, 7-14 August, Sussex, England

Well done to Jamie Gumbrell, who at her first appearance, is the new GC Women's World Champion. Jamie's success is a testament to her hard work, dedication and commitment to the sport. Jamie won the seventh championship, defeating Rachel Gee, a previous world champion and current European Champion to take the title in Sussex, England. The event was held at Southwick Croquet Club and was live streamed daily.

Jamie Gumbrell is the current Australian Women's Golf Croquet champion, a member of Canberra Croquet Club, and has been playing since the age of 15. At 22 years of age, she was one of the youngest players in the competition, which attracted competitors from 16 countries around the world, including England, Egypt, Spain, the United States, Australia and New Zealand. The championships are held once every 4 years, and Jamie is only the second Australian woman to win the event: the previous Australian champion was Alix Verge in 2009. This year five Australian women attended: three of whom are members of Canberra Croquet Club. Kate McLoughlin and Gerda Lambeck (Canberra), Virginia Arney (Norwood, SA) and Pamela Barnwell (Newcastle, NSW) were also selected to compete. Virginia Arney finished in the top 8 players, and Kate McLoughlin was runner-up in the Bowl consolation event.



CNSW GC BRONZE BROOCH, 8-10 August 2023, Taree

14 players contested this year's Bronze Brooch at beautiful Taree Croquet Club.

Players were divided into two blocks of 7 with the top 4 from each block progressing to the finals.

In the quarter finals: Tony Croft defeated Rod Peet 6/7 7/6 7/5; Wendy Herbert defeated Sherry Gordon 4/7 7/4 7/5;

Lyn Baker defeated Chris Larkin 7/3 7/3; and Faby Batho defeated Robert Batho 6/7 7/5 7/5.

In the semi finals: Tony Croft (Port Macquarie) defeated Wendy Herbert (Marrickville) 7/2 7/2, and Faby Batho (Nelson Bay) defeated Lyn Baker 7/5 7/3.

The final was best of three games and there were some close games: Tony Croft defeated Faby Batho 4/7 7/5 7/5

In the Plate, Ann Croft (Marrickville) defeated Phil Monds (EDSACC) in a very exciting close game 7/6. Thanks to Taree CC for hosting and running a great event and well done to all the volunteers and referees.



Most of the players above, with Faby Batho (runner-up and third from left) and Tony Croft (winner and fifth from the right)

MAKARA SEASON 2023

Ricochet Teams

Entries for this year's RC Teams event were disappointing with pairs from only 2 of the Makara Clubs entering, with one team withdrawing before completion due to unfortunate personal circumstances.

This aside, the Marrickville and Hurstville teams engaged with the usual friendly rivalry, playing a double round robin with home and away test. Marrickville Stormcasters*, Charles Britton & Roberta Flint won all of their tests with the Marrickville Brewsters, Judy Tonkin & Stephen Catt, finishing runners-up after pipping the Hurstville team, equal on tests, at the post by 1 game.

Down the time tunnel of Makara RC, not only has Charles Britton been a member of the winning team for the last 3 years, but Charles and Roberta were winners of the inaugural Makara RC Doubles in 2016! Quite a record! Here they are (at right) with Margaret Sawyer and Wayne Worrell from Nowra in 2016.

*"Stormcasters" references the mallet of Loki, Norse God of mischief, who can play havoc in a game of croquet!



Association Croquet Handicap Singles

The AC Handicap Singles was held at the Cooks River Croquet Club from 1-3 August in spectacular winter weather. There were 8 entrants again this year, with players from Orange, Mosman, Hunters Hill, Marrickville (3) and Holroyd (2). Players played 2 round robins with the second a play off across the first round which determined overall places. Peter Kadar (Hunter's Hill) and Fidy Westgarth (Mosman) were undefeated in the preliminary round and were joined by Fiona Gale (Holroyd) and Lance Howes (Marrickville), who was playing his debut AC event, in the second round robin to determine places 1-4. This was a very tight contest with 3 of these players winning 2 games each so places were decided on net hoops. Congratulations to the winner, Peter Kadar, and Lance Howes who was runner up.

A big thank you to Heather Smallbone, Helen Collins and David Gibson referees who kindly supported the event.

Roberta Flint,

Tournament Referee



(L:R) Peter Kadar, Heather Smallbone (TR) and Lance Howes



(L:R) Lance Howes, Peter Kadar, Fidy Westgarth, John Read (Orange CC), Fiona Gale, Charles Britton (Marrickville), and Roberta Flint (TR)

CNSW DIVISION 1 GOLF SINGLES, 23-25 August, Tempe

12 players, including most of the CNSW State Team, contested this year's event. They played in one large block with the top four players going on to contest the finals. The block placings were: 1st – David Scott 8 wins 3 losses net hoops +24; 2nd Mark Scruton 8 wins 3 losses net hoops +8; 3rd Kate McLoughlin 7 wins 4 losses net hoops +15; and 4th Stephen Burns 7 wins 4 losses net hoops +7.

In the semi finals: David Scott (Ballina Cherry Street) defeated Stephen Burns (Cooks River) 7/5/7/5, and Mark Scruton (Canberra) defeated Kate McLoughlin (Canberra) 6/5 7/2.

The final between two CNSW State Golf Team members was best of three games. It was a thriller with David Scott winning the first game 7/6, Mark Scruton fought back by winning the second game 7/1, and the final game went right down to the 13th hoop with David Scott winning 7/6.

The Y event was won by Jill Sullivan (Cooks River) 7/5 against Kevin McGlynn (Canberra) and in the W event Peter Freer (Canberra) defeated Peter Montague (Killara) 7/6.



(L:R) David Scott and Mark Scruton

Bookings for the CNSW lawns at Tempe

CNSW Members who are not members of Cooks River Croquet who wish to play at Tempe on a casual basis can use the Cooks River Lawn Booking system. You will need to be registered to use the system by sending an email to tempelawns@croquet-nsw.org. Lawn fees of \$6 per half day apply.

Tournaments coming up:

CNSW (AC) Platinum Brooch, 18-20 September, Chatswood. Entries close 8 September

CNSW (AC) Open Singles, 22-25 September, Tempe. Entries close 15 September.

(GC) Sutherland Advantage, 30 September – 2 October, Sutherland. Entries close 15 September

(AC) Escape to Jamberoo, 6-8 October, Jamberoo

(GC) Urunga Carnival, Singles, 17-20 October, Urunga

ACA Handicap GC Doubles and Singles Championships, 23-27 October, Twin City, Albury. Entry via ACA website.

(GC) Jamberoo Spring Carnival, 24-27 October, Jamberoo

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