

# NEWSLETTER

February 2024



## IN THIS EDITION

Volunteers for CNSW  
Arbitrary Changes in H/C  
Board Update  
Winners are Grinners  
Tournaments Coming Up  
... and other news

## CHRISTMAS GIVING BY THE WOLLONGONG CROQUET CLUB

Rather than run our annual Christmas Raffle at Wollongong Croquet Club, Joan Christopher has asked members to donate food for those people who are not as fortunate as most and who are struggling to make ends meet. The result was outstanding and seven boxes of non-perishable goods were donated. It was decided to donate the items to the Bulli Food Pantry.

Many thanks to all who generously donated food items – they go a long way to make Christmas more enjoyable for the needy.



*The food donations were boxed by Joan, and with Maureen Waters were presented to Karen who represented the Bulli Food Pantry*

## CROQUET NSW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Croquet NSW (CNSW) Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, **20 March 2024, at 7pm**, via MS Teams. A forum will follow the meeting. Club Secretaries will have already received Notice of the meeting, nomination forms for the CNSW Board, Expressions of Interest for Committees and Officers, and a reminder to update their Delegate's information.

Wednesday **7 February** is the last day for the CNSW Secretary to receive notice of Special Resolutions, Wednesday **14 February** is the last day to receive nominations for the CNSW Board, Officers and Committees, and Wednesday **21 February** is the last day for receiving Other Business for inclusion on the Agenda. On **22 February** the Agenda will be circulated to Club Secretaries and Delegates, and on **28 February** the 2024 Annual Report will be distributed to Clubs and Delegates.

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](mailto:newsletter@croquet-nsw.org)

Website: <https://croquet-nsw.org>

[Croquet NSW Facebook page](#)

## **FROM THE BOARD**

The Croquet NSW Board has handled many important issues over recent months, and some of these are covered elsewhere in this newsletter.

### **2024 Budget**

The Treasurer has presented the 2024 Budget which was accepted by the Board. The Board has approved an increase in funding for the gardens and surrounds at CNSW Tempe Headquarters. The budget of \$5,000 is subject to review by the Facilities Management Committee which will report to the February Board meeting with its recommendations.

### **Mackey Park**

The CNSW Headquarters is within Mackey Park and the Inner West Council is considering what arrangements are required to best utilise this valuable Crown Land for all sporting clubs who wish to use the park. The future of the Concordia

Club building, which houses the CNSW office and amenities, is currently being assessed and any change such as renovation/rebuild will impact croquet players significantly. Also, the Board is mindful of the fact that any renovation/rebuild will impact on the surrounds, and this will be taken into account before allocating expenditure to the gardens and surrounds. A meeting on the current status of the POM will be held with IWC on 14 February 2024.

### **Court Lighting**

Cooks River CC and CNSW have submitted a grant application for the installation of lighting on all 4 courts at Tempe. If successful this will enable summer play to be held in the evening, for tournaments to be completed over fewer days, and for working people to attend croquet after work.

### **Office of Sport, Organisation Support Program**

NSW Office of Sport, Organisation Support Program has funds available for eligible organisations. Female Participation is one of the key policy and strategy areas for the Office of Sport and aligns well with croquet membership and participation initiatives. Current female membership is around 66%. CNSW Chair and Secretary will attend a workshop with the Office of Sport and follow up as necessary with Clubs.

### **Referees**

The lack of referees, especially in golf croquet, has resulted in discussions regarding why experienced players are not putting their hands up to do the qualification. Consultation on the training and testing process is underway and recommendations will be put forward as to the approach to assist potential referees to complete the necessary qualifications.

### **Volunteers**

The Board has been busy preparing for the AGM, and as we look back to 2023, we see what a busy year it was for croquet in NSW. So many Clubs held their own tournaments, friendship days with other Clubs, and come & try days, and we see the overall number of members grow each year. This does not happen without the efforts of wonderful volunteers. It was also a busy and successful year for CNSW tournaments and national tournaments and once again these cannot happen without our volunteers.

In relation to CNSW tournaments, it is pleasing to see Clubs volunteer to hold events in 2024. Many of these Clubs are in the rural and regional areas which provides an opportunity for competitions to be held outside the metropolitan area.

Stephen Burns, CNSW Director

## **VOLUNTEERS FOR CROQUET NSW**

A big thank you to all the volunteers who enable us to play croquet, enter competitions and be a part of the broader croquet family. We currently have 7 volunteer Board members, 22 Committee members and appointed officials, and over 500 accredited referees and coaches! And this does not count the many more Club members who take on roles in their clubs and keep the Clubs running and thriving.

As we near the AGM and wind up the past year's activities, I have been checking in on our committees and officials to see who is willing and able to continue in their roles. Most are continuing, but a good number would like to hand their duties on. The list of officials and committee members is listed below, with vacancies highlighted, and those roles where the holder is probably looking to move on in the near future.

Board positions are held for one year and can be elected for no more than five consecutive terms. Committees and Officials are appointed by the Board for one year, and can be re-appointed for up to five years. We are currently looking for a number of critical roles (position descriptions listed below)

- **State Director Coaching**
- **State Director Refereeing (Golf Croquet)**
- **State Director Refereeing (Association Croquet)**

Please consider putting your hand up for one of these roles, or perhaps offering to do part of what is required, and we can look at sharing the role. Other opportunities exist in Selection, Facilities Management or Tournaments where you can contribute as part of a team. The current Board members are listed and there is one vacancy on the Board currently, which is likely to be the role of Treasurer. The Board agrees on who is undertaking which office on the Board after the Directors are elected at the AGM. So thanks for what you do and consider taking on one of the vacancies listed.

Kate McLoughlin  
Chair, Croquet NSW

Board Members 2023	Nominating for 2024	Role in 2023
Kate McLoughlin	Kate McLoughlin	Chair
Ray Chapman	Ray Chapman	Vice Chair
Steve Miles		Treasurer
Rik Mills	Rik Mills	Secretary
Liz Friend	Liz Friend	Newsletter
Fidye Westgarth	Fidye Westgarth	Director
Stephen Burns	Stephen Burns	Director

Croquet NSW Committees and Officers 2024		
Appointed Positions	Continuing	Vacancies
State Handicapper	Gareth Denyer	Transitioning to retirement
Tournament Committee	David Stanton (Chair) Richard Christian Mike Hughes Joanne Brown	Chair: Transitioning to retirement
AC Selectors	Stephen Richards (Chair) Mike Hughes David Stanton Kerri Ann Organ	Opportunity for another member
GC Selectors	Peter Montague (Chair) Peter Freer Ros Johnstone <i>Vacant</i> <i>Vacant</i>	Chair: transitioning to retirement  Opportunity for more selectors
State Coach	Peter Landrebe (AC)	
Facility Management Committee	Steve Miles Stephen Burns <i>Vacant</i>	Opportunity for more members
State Co-ordinator of Coaching	<i>Vacant</i>	Actively seeking replacement

State Co-ordinator of Refereeing AC	<i>Vacant</i>	Actively seeking replacement
State Co-ordinator of Refereeing GC	<i>Vacant</i>	Actively seeking replacement
State Co-ordinator of Refereeing Gateball	Petula Shun	
State Director Gateball	Petula Shun	
State Director Ricochet	Ray Chapman (Acting)	Richard Hughes on leave
State Co-ordinator, Junior Croquet	Jacky McDonald	Transitioning to retirement
Merchandise Officer	Lisa Kelshaw	
Membership Officer	Pam Weimers	
Complaints and MPIO Officer	<i>Vacant</i>	Actively seeking replacement
Web Manager	David Archer (until new website transition)	Transitioning to retirement
Club Hubs Co-ordinator	Christine Edlund	

### Role Descriptions

For all role descriptions, see the website: **Governance:** [CNSW-Duties-of-Officials-and-Committee-Members.pdf \(croquet-nsw.org\)](#)

#### State Coaching Coordinator

The role of the State Coaching Coordinator is to:

- a) Coordinates the training, accreditation, and reaccreditation of coaches within NSW for all croquet codes.
- b) They maintain and approve the list of accredited coaches within NSW.
- c) They Coordinate the availability of coaching resources - accreditation requirements; coaching manuals; badges etc
- d) They liaise with Croquet Australia (including the Croquet Academy) to ensure appropriate representation regarding coaching matters for Croquet NSW.

#### State Directors of Refereeing

Each of the State Directors of Refereeing shall, in their respective areas:

- a) Be a qualified referee,
- b) Recommend to the Board appointment of persons to conduct examinations of members wishing to qualify as referees - such persons to be known as State Examining Referees AC or State Examining Referee GC.
- c) Supervise the duties of the State Examining Referees.
- d) Keep records of referees, umpires, and examinations, including a referee and umpire register, and keep website list of referees up to date.
- e) Appoint tournament referees as required for C NSW events.
- f) Organise/conduct appropriate training and refresher courses to keep referees and umpires up to date with rules, regulations, and any other developments.
- g) Ensure there are sufficient examining referees, attention being given to the appointment of referees in urban and regional areas.
- h) Make approaches to each club without a qualified referee, with advice and assistance to interested members considering referee and umpire qualifications.
- i) Report to the Board as scheduled.

Kate McLoughlin

Chair, Croquet NSW

## CROQUET NSW ANNOUNCES NEW WEBSITE

Croquet NSW is moving to a new website from 4 April 2024.

We have signed an Agreement with Sports Grid to build a RevolutioniseSPORT (RevSPORT) powered website. We will subsequently also operate under the RevSPORT Management Platform which will organise and store our club, player, event data and more.

Croquet NSW has been very well served by its current website, which has delivered a very workable and functional website, including membership, club, tournament, and related data for the use of NSW Clubs and their members. We owe a large debt to David Archer for his work on building, maintaining this database and website over the last 19 years. We will transition to the new website in April with the database functionality following in July. The website will provide dynamic news and event information, Club finder and all necessary website information. Croquet Australia will also be using the RevSPORT platform, so the data transition is timed to work with their current timeline.

Clubs will be able to access member data through the new CNSW website, or by signing up with RevSport themselves. Timeframes and costs for this phase will be announced over the coming months but are expected to be modest.

Existing player and Club data will be downloaded from the current CNSW database, so clubs and players are encouraged to update their information between now and June 2024. Briefing and training sessions will be available to CNSW Clubs and players to assist in the transition, and to familiarise clubs with the new functionality available.

The Platform is used by 270 governing bodies as well as over 17,500 grassroots clubs & associations across 8 countries. RevSPORT is the market leader for data management for sporting organisations in Australia and is an Australian-based company. They are renowned for the ease of use of the platform, for their user-friendly service and for their professional standards and reasonable cost structure. More news to come as this exciting new phase unfolds.

Kate McLoughlin

Chair, Croquet NSW

## RICOCHET RULE BOOKS, 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION

The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the 2023 Ricochet Rules book have been printed and if your Club has ordered some copies, they should have already been delivered to you.

If you ordered copies and they have not been received, please contact our Merchandising Officer, Lisa Kelshaw, and Clubs who wish to place an order can email Lisa on [merchandising@croquet-nsw.org](mailto:merchandising@croquet-nsw.org)

The rule books come in sizes A5 (existing size) and A6 (smaller, same size as the GC rule book) and cost \$7.50 each, plus postage.

All Ricochet referees should have received their complimentary copy. If any Ricochet referee has not received their copy, please email [ray.chapman@croquet-nsw.org](mailto:ray.chapman@croquet-nsw.org) with your details.

The new rule books take effect from 1 February 2024 and copies, including a list of the major changes, can be found on our website under Refereeing <https://croquet-nsw.org/refereeing/Ricochet-Rules-a5-size.pdf>

Ray Chapman

for CNSW Ricochet Co-ordinator

## REFEREE NEWS

**Wanting to play by the rules is a sign of your commitment to the game**

After many years supporting players as a GC referee and a GC Tutor Referee, Margaret Sawers from Nowra Club is retiring. Thank you Margaret and Happy Retirement!!!

Derek Bull from Newcastle National Park Club has been appointed as a Tutor Referee.

Be sure to check out the new material on the GC Rules recently made available on the World Croquet Federation website. <https://worldcroquet.org/online-rules-training-and-study-pack/>

Lorraine Hatfield

State Director of Refereeing (GC)

## SENIORS' WEEK 11-24 MARCH

Is your Club organising an event for Seniors' Week? If so, it would be terrific if you could share your story and your photos with other Clubs by publishing in the Newsletter. This year's theme is "Reach Beyond" which endeavours to encourage Seniors to expand their horizons. Perhaps this is the perfect opportunity to organise a Come & Try event!

Please send articles to Liz Friend [newsletter@croquet-nsw.org](mailto:newsletter@croquet-nsw.org)



## **ARBITRARY CHANGES IN HANDICAPS**

It is timely to visit the practice of making arbitrary changes in handicaps.

A player's handicap should only be changed as a result of an AHS trigger or through judgement (by an experienced eye) of their current playing standard and trajectory.

If a tournament manager wants to accept players into an event so as to swell numbers or give opportunities to developing players, they should just change the entry requirements. Entering a tournament shouldn't result in a pre-emptive change in the players' handicaps. If the situation was mirrored at the other end, it would be bizarre to downgrade a player from a -3 to a 1 just so they can enter a tournament restricted to positive handicaps.

Tournament entry requirements are completely arbitrary: well equilibrated handicaps/indexes are not.

Tournament managers should encourage higher handicap players to participate in competitions. So being flexible and aspirational with tournament entry requirements is to be commended, but fiddling with the AHS for individuals outside of their merits is unacceptable.

Gareth Denyer

Croquet Australia National Handicapper

## **LIVE STREAMING OF CROQUET NSW EVENTS**

The CNSW Board has agreed to a trial of live streaming of the final day of the Men's Golf championship on Sunday 7 April, and the Open Golf championship on Monday 22 April, both from the CNSW headquarters at Tempe. The live streaming is to be undertaken by [Happy Cam Sports](#) and will be available free on the Happy Cam Sports YouTube account (just use the YouTube search function) and on the CNSW Facebook page. Streaming will be the semi-finals and the finals of each event, commencing at 8am.

Following the trial, the CNSW Board will consider the merits of any future live streaming of CNSW events based on the quality of the telecast, any technical challenges, the audience participation, and cost.

## **2024 MEMBER PROTECTION INFORMATION OFFICER (MPIO) WORKSHOPS**

The Office of Sport's popular MPIO workshops will return in 2024. MPIOs play a vital role in protecting the rights and welfare of club members as the 'go to' person to raise issues, concerns and complaints. The Office of Sport will host four webinars during February and March. The training involves two free components:

1. Play by the Rules online MPIO module – hosted on the [Sport Integrity Australia e-learning hub](#).
2. Office of Sport webinar session - a two-hour practical session.

Clubs are encouraged to use their MPIO's as the first step in any conflicts or disagreements in their Club. If you'd like to better protect your club members, [register here](#).

## **NSW TEAM FOR 2024 EIRE CUP**

The NSW AC State Team has been selected to play in the 2024 Eire Cup, which will be played in Hobart 13-17 March 2024.

The team is: Jo Brown (Cammeray), Rosie Landrebe (Cammeray), Peter Landrebe (Cammeray – and Captain), Tim Murphy (Canberra), Jim Nicholls (Wagga Wagga), Kerri-Ann Organ (Canberra), Helena Panasewycz (Cooks River) and Stephen Pearce (Canberra). Mike Gidding (Ballina) and Diane Scott (Wollongong) are the reserves.

Please wish all members of the team the best as NSW seeks to defend the title won in Melbourne in 2023.

Stephen Richards

Chair, CNSW AC Selection Committee

## **DAWSON BALLS – AUSTRALIAN CROQUET COMPANY**

Paul Manwaring has advised that he has ingredients to manufacture the WCF approved Dawson balls. He anticipates being able to meet orders from Australian clubs, commencing 15 Jan 2024, and international orders, commencing 15 Feb 2024. <https://www.dawsonballs.store/>

## **WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS (WWCC) – RENEWALS GO DIGITAL**

It is important to remember that all Coaches must have a current WWCC. A Working with Children Check (WWCC) lasts for five years and then needs to be renewed. You can now skip the queue and digitally renew your WWCC in as little as 10 minutes. Online renewals remove the need to visit a Service NSW Centre. The new process is streamlined, efficient and secure and will become the go-to renewal method to easily meet their compliance obligations. Enabled by photo verification tech, the process delivers a high-level of security by ensuring the images are destroyed after the real-time check is completed, without the hassle of submitting physical documents. Since launching late last year, more than 3000 customers have successfully renewed their WWCC online and 98% of those who provided feedback gave a 'thumbs up' to the online experience.

## **WINNERS ARE GRINNERS**

### **Gateball News**

NSW Gateball entered a team in the South Australian GB Championship held at State Headquarters, Hutt Rd, Adelaide, on the first weekend in December. Peter Wood (Canberra), John and Penny Park, Philippa Rose (Hazelbrook), Lynn Thomas and Judy Squelch (Newcastle) participated in the team. The NSW/Canberra team won half their games with close games in others. John and Penny also competed in the doubles. After a poor start, they had a successful final day convincingly winning the game against the ultimate winners and other teams.



I would like to take this opportunity to advise the clubs that each NSW HUB has a set of Gateball equipment that we can offer for 3-6 months to any club that would like to learn and try the game. Each club would be offered assistance and coaching. I can offer to organise an introduction workshop in any club. The first and third Sunday is open to any player who would like to experience Gateball at Strathfield club.

As the new NSW Gateball Coordinator, I would like to thank Judy Tier for her work in this position. Judy has always been a great supporter of coaching and encouraging the right attitude towards play. (photo above: Judy's last official duty)

Petula Shun  
CNSW Gateball Coordinator

## **AUSTRALIAN UNDER 21 GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024**

### **U21 GOLF GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS, 10–12 January, Maitland Croquet Club**

Five of Australia's best young croquet players gathered at Maitland for this year's event: Addison Matthews (QLD), Ethan Gumbrell (NSW), Jamie Fleming (TAS), James Wombwell (VIC) and Peter Crook (SA).

The event was as a best-of-three games round robin which came down to Addison vs Ethan which Ethan won 7/6 7/6 to remain undefeated and the Gold Medal winner. Addison finished with the Silver medal, losing only one match.

Congratulations Ethan and so close for Addison. Peter won two games to finish third while Jamie and James gained valuable experience and will both be big improvers next year.

### **U21 GOLF DOUBLES & SINGLES, 13–15 January, Maitland Croquet Club**

The Gold medal players were joined by Tim Wright (QLD), Michael & Daniel McLean (VIC) and Micah Hamilton (VIC).

The Doubles was a round robin event. The winners were Ethan Gumbrell (Canberra ACT) and Jamie Fleming (Kingston Tas), with five wins 1 loss and net hoops of +25. Close runners up were Addison Matthews and Tim Wright (Laurel Park QLD), with 5 wins 1 loss and net hoops of +8.

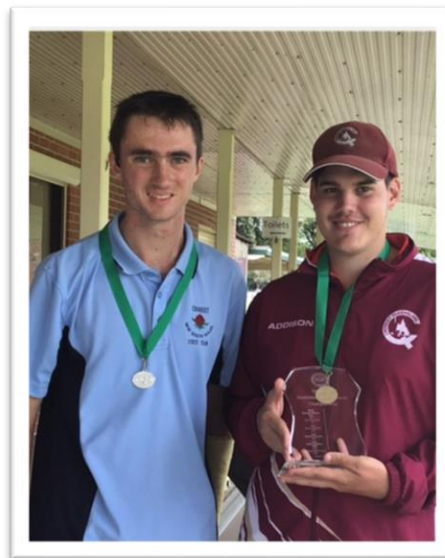
Congratulations to Ethan and Jamie.

The Singles championship was a round robin with the top two players playing off in the final. All the Gold medal and Doubles players stayed to compete in the Singles event. After the round robin it was Addison Matthews on top undefeated with 8 wins, second place was Ethan Gumbrell with 6 wins and 2 losses, and a close third was James Wombwell with 6 wins and 9 net hoops.

The final was a rematch of the Gold medal event with Addison winning the first game 7/4 and Ethan the second game 7/6 (again), however Addison stood firm and won the deciding game 7/5 to become the Australian Under 21 Golf champion.

Congratulations to all the winners and runners up and good job by all the other competitors who are the face of the future of croquet.

Big thanks to Maitland Croquet Club for hosting the event, the Referees, and all the volunteers.



(L:R) Ethan (Gold), Ethan and Jamie (Doubles), and Ethan (Singles runner-up) and Addison (Singles winner)

## CNSW HUBS CALENDAR

Players are reminded to watch out for Hub events that they would like to be involved in. Please see the calendar below:

TORONTO HUB - EVENT	LOCATION	AC	GC	RC	GB
TOURNAMENT TIPS – David Stanton	TORONTO		6 Feb		
COACHING	EDSACC				13 Feb
DIV 3 COACHING	TORONTO		20 Feb		
REFEREE PREPARATION – Peter Gordon	TORONTO		27 Feb		
PROMOTION OF WOMENS IN SPORT	SPEERS POINT				3 Mar
BECOMING A CAPTAIN – John Park	EDSACC				5 Mar
THINK LIKE A CAPTAIN – John Park	NAT. PARK				6 Mar
SENIORS WEEK – COME AND TRY	TORONTO	15 Mar	15 Mar	15 Mar	15 Mar
TACTICS – Chris Williamson	TORONTO		20 Apr		
FRIENDSHIP DAY	TORONTO			26 Apr	
COACHING – Pam Gentle	TORONTO	30 Apr			
DIV 1 COACHING – Trevor Black	TORONTO		21 May		
COACHING/TACTICS– Ray Chapman	TORONTO			30 May	
COACHING/TACTICS– Ray Chapman	TORONTO			31 May	
COACHING – Brenda Wild	TORONTO		4 June		

CONTACT MARION DAVIES [marion.dawn6@gmail.com](mailto:marion.dawn6@gmail.com) if you want to attend any of the above events



<b>COUTTS CROSSING HUB - EVENT</b>	LOCATION	AC	GC	RC	GB
Rules	COUTTS CROSSING		22 Feb		
Rules	SOUTH WEST ROCKS		29 Feb		
INTRODUCTION TO RICOCHET – Simon Cook	COUTTS CROSSING			26 Mar	
RUNNING TOURNAMENTS – David Stanton	COUTTS CROSSING		5 Apr		
ADVANCED COACHING – Pam Gentle	COUTTS CROSSING		TBA		
MARKETING/SOCIAL MEDIA – TBA	COUTTS CROSSING				

CONTACT PAUL SCHOFIELD riverfields2@gmail.com if you wish to attend any of the above events

<b>STRATHFIELD HUB - EVENT</b>	LOCATION	AC	GC	RC	GB
WORKSHOP – INTRO TO AC – Peter Landrebe		22 Feb			
WORKSHOP – INTRO TO AC – Peter Landrebe		23 Feb			
WORKSHOP Tactics/Coaching - Ray Chapman	STRATHFIELD			5 Mar	
WORKSHOP Tactics/Coaching - Ray Chapman	STRATHFIELD			6 Mar	
WORKSHOP					TBA
WORKSHOP – Tournament Programming			TBA		

CONTACT PETULA SHUN petulashun@hotmail.com if you wish to attend any of the above events

<b>NOWRA</b>					
EVENT	LOCATION	AC	GC	RC	GB
WORKSHOP – Tactics/Coaching - Ray Chapman				27 May	
WORKSHOP – Tactics/Coaching - Ray Chapman				28 May	

CONTACT DOUG CORNISH cornish@shoalhaven.net.au if you want to attend any of the above events

### **Tournaments Coming Up**

Orange (AC) Autumn Carnival, 14-17 March (flyer attached)

Port Macquarie (AC) Carnival, 29 July to 2 August

Forster Spring Carnival (AC/RC), 28-31 August (flyer attached)

### **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](mailto:tempelawns@croquet-nsw.org). Lawn fees of \$6 per half day apply.

**CROQUET EVENTS CALENDAR 2024** <https://croquetscores.com/2024>