

NSW GC Advantage Doubles & Singles 28 June - 2 July 2023 Report

In previous years the events were known as GC Handicap Doubles and Singles but in 2023 the Croquet NSW Tournament Committee decided to play the events as Advantage Play as per Rule 21 of the WCF Rules of Golf Croquet 6th Edition, adopted by Croquet Australia on 1 July 2022.

In mostly sunny, dry conditions 31 players from Alstonville, Ballina, Blue Mountains, Byron Bay, Coutts Crossing, Maitland, Port Macquarie and Woolgoolga contested the NSW GC Advantage Doubles and Singles events from 28th June – 2nd July 2023. Players enjoyed the Advantage format with many commenting they prefer Advantage over Extra Strokes. The Ballina venue attracted a large gallery of members from surrounding clubs to watch some great croquet. Both the Doubles and Singles finals saw the use of Croquet NSW's portable scoreboard which kept the gallery abreast of the current score.

The events were held at Ballina and Byron Bay with many players moving locations from one day to the next. We thank all players for doing so, especially players who travelled between locations after completion of the block round robins on Thursday for the Doubles and Saturday for the Singles to play their first game in the Knockout or Y/Plate. Some players also travelled between venues following completion of the Doubles Final early on Friday afternoon to play their two Singles block games.

Over two and a half days, fifteen pairs competed in the Doubles event which were single 13 point games in the Block rounds and single 19 point games thereafter. To ensure all required games could be completed within the 5 days, time limits were applied being 1 hour 30 minutes for the 13 point block games and 2 hours 15 minutes for the 19 point knockout games. The eventual winners were Sharon Daley & Margaret Mitchell from Ballina Croquet Club beating runners up Chris Cox & Jim Hannigan from Port Macquarie and Ballina Cherry Street Croquet Clubs respectively 9/8. The Y event was won by Sue Bryan & Marj Haines (Woolgoolga) beating Marg O'Doherty & Sue Oeding (Alstonville) 10/6. Marj at 93 years of age is definite evidence that croquet helps with longevity.

A Byron Bay member joined eleven doubles competitors who backed up for the Singles event which also played over two and a half days. The winner was Margaret Carwood from Maitland Croquet Club beating runner up Sharon Daley from Ballina Croquet Club 10/2. The singles Plate was won by Greg Porter from Ballina Cherry Street Croquet Club, narrowly beating Gerd Modlich from Byron Bay Croquet Club 10/8.

Players enjoyed superb hospitality at each venue and all volunteers involved can be very proud of their contribution for very successful tournaments.

Management of the tournaments was simplified with the use of David Stanton's excellent worksheets which now track handicaps and alerted me to 10 players triggering during the two events. Of course, the worksheets automatically recalculate any change in starting scores for following games and produce result slips to reflect same. Many thanks to David for the considerable time and effort he puts into continued development of the worksheets and for being responsive multiple times during the tournaments.

David Scott
Tournament Manager
3 July 2023