

NSW Open AC Handicap 2024

The Beryl Chambers Trophy



Association Croquet players across NSW & ACT are invited to participate in the 2024 NSW Open AC Handicap for the Beryl Chambers Memorial Trophy. As a handicap event, players at all levels have an even chance of success. Winners and runners up in the last few years have had handicaps ranging from 18 to -1 so all entrants are in the running to progress to the finals of this special event.

In recent years championship hopefuls' handicaps have ranged from 20 to -2, which resulted in different challenges for all! In 2023 14 people qualified for the final round held on the very fast lawns of the CNSW Headquarters, Tempe. Highlights for players were that the handicap event allowed for higher handicapped players to pit themselves against those on lower handicaps and learn more about the challenges of the game beyond mere execution. How to strategically employ bisques to their best advantage to form and maintain breaks was the objective of the higher handicapped. Lower handicapped players were equally challenged having to generally come from behind to "hunt" their opponent.

All players reported this event as a positive experience with playing against new faces refreshing and catching up with some more familiar faces equally enjoyable. In both 2021 and 2022 Tim Murphy (Canberra, handicap -1) was the winner. The players in the semi-finals in 2023 had handicaps of 3, 7, 7 and 12, and the final result was 26-20 to Ted Woodley (Chatswood, handicap 3) over Julie Toms (Canberra, handicap 12).

In 2024 qualifying events will hopefully be held in 9 locations throughout NSW to encourage broad participation, with the local winners eligible to play in the State Final from Friday 7 to Monday 10 June, at CNSW HQ at Tempe.

Qualifying round matches will be arranged and played locally to accommodate maximum participation and need to be completed by about the end of May. A qualifying event for Coffs Coast players (at Coutts Crossing, 2-3 May) has already been organized and set up on the CNSW website.

Entry fees:

- \$30 per player to cover the initial block round
- Plus an additional \$25 for the final series qualifiers

Part of the entry fees go toward a pool for travel/accommodation subsidy for country players who make it to the final.

Each event manager is responsible for deciding the exact times of play and the venues to be used. Times and venues will where possible take into account the availability of each entrant.

Each qualifying event will be set up on [CNSW website](#) as details are finalised, and can be accessed by clicking on the "Register" button for the appropriate event.