

CROQUET NSW Inc.

Newsletter

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SEPTEMBER 2013

Australian
Golf Croquet Championships
2013
Hunter Region
including
Gold Medal
Men's and Women's Singles
and
Australian Golf Croquet WCF Interstate
Shield

This year's events were hosted by a number of clubs in the Hunter Region of NSW. The Internet's **Croquet Scores** has proved invaluable in communicating results as they happen. Details are available online by typing "CroquetScores" into your favourite web browser.

Each state's open singles champion competed over three days with their peers for the **Gold Medal** at Macquarie City's lawns beside magnificent Lake Macquarie at Pelican. NSW's representative, Steve Harden from Tamworth, performed well finishing the event with 8 wins. However Western Australia's Chris McWhirter amassed 11 wins to secure the prestigious **Gold Medal**. An exciting new player, Tom Komene (Queensland) showed much promise to finish second with 10 wins and Victoria's Judy Wembridge survived a disastrous second day to finish third with 9 wins.

South Australia's Barry Hayden found the competition very inspiring and was delighted with his 6 wins while Daryl Jacobs from Tasmania scored one win to finish sixth.

The **Men's Singles** saw 16 players from the block rounds compete through a series of knock-out matches to produce a winner. Spectators at Maitland saw great croquet in all matches but eventually Western Australia's Chris McWhirter was victorious over his WA compatriot Kim Reynolds. Highest place NSW rep was Peter Landrebe who was eliminated in the second last round after playing very impressively.



NSW's
State
Team

The **Men's Plate**, at Toronto, was won by John Levick (Newcastle) over Doug Leabeater also from NSW.

The **Women's Singles** saw 16 players enter the knock-out games at Newcastle, after block play at Maitland. Wendy Dixon (Vic) was victorious over Fleur Brockway (WA) 7/5,7/6 to take the title. Bateau Bay, on the central coast, was the venue for the **Women's Plate** in which South Australia's Virginia Arney (9 wins) held at bay Rosemary Newsham (Qld) 8 wins.

The **Interstate Shield** was held in fantastic weather with teams travelling to Newcastle, Maitland, Toronto and EDSACC. Croquet scores show all matches clearly so for detail go there.

Evident from the competition is the great advances in play demonstrated by competitors. 10m solid roquets are the norm for men and women while leaf-accurate placements are the hallmark of the leaders. A fantastic competition in great spirit.

Unfortunately NSW's team did not enjoy the success it would have liked. However many fine performances were put in by members and the team not only showed improved results as time went on, but was rock-solid behind each member and supported one-another to the nth degree.

Victoria was the ultimate winner of this gruelling five day challenge. Congratulations to all competitors—along the way there were plenty of personal bests!

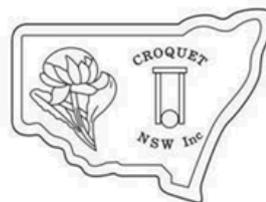
Peter Smith
Team Manager



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From the President:



As this report is for the September edition it will be my final report for 2012/13. I would firstly like to thank all of the wonderful members who volunteered during the year to fill a CNSW position or sit on a CNSW committee. Organizations, big or small, rely on volunteers to operate successfully throughout the year. Without volunteers organisations grind to a halt, members services suffer and inevitably the lifespan of the organization approaches an end. Is CNSW heading along this route? Can CNSW fill its key positions and committees? What can **you** as a member of CNSW do to help?

At the June Council Meeting a letter from Jamberoo Croquet Club was tabled. This well-argued letter asked CNSW to look at the current situation at Tempe and to consider the future of the Tempe Headquarters. A long standing CNSW member outlined the history of the Tempe lawns and herb reasons for a continued presence at Tempe. After further discussion it was put to the meeting that a Futures Committee should be formed to investigate the current state and usage of the facilities and initiate and consider future plans for the site. Clubs were asked to canvas their members to seek interest from members in joining this action committee. At this stage the number of volunteers stands at one.

The State Pennants Competitions have been completed for 2013 and again have proven to be highly successful and enjoyable to all that competed. I would like to thank the managers of the State Pennants Competitions AC and GC for a job well done. They have rejuvenated the top Divisions, Premier Pennants (AC) and Division 1(GC) and plan to make them even more competitive in 2014.

All other divisions ran like clockwork with all matches finished well inside the deadlines. I thank all the clubs and players that participated – without you there would not be a competition. If you participated this year then encourage your club to be involved next year. If your club did not enter this year then you missed out on great competition and social interaction. Encourage your club to be involved in 2014. We would love to be in a situation where the number of teams entered creates an organisational nightmare.

Best wishes and good luck to the Golf Croquet Interstate Team going into battle with the other 5 States for the Interstate Shield. This begins in the last week in August and is being played in the Hunter and Central coast. Good hooping – enjoy the competition. (We will of course know the result of this competition by the time you read this.)

From the Editor:

As I put this issue of the Newsletter to bed, Spring is definitely in the air with the wonderful weather most of us, if not all, have been experiencing. Of course, we do need some rain but it is good for croquet when weather is fine.

Once again I thank the clubs who have sent in their various contributions: Ballina Cherry Street, Branxton, Eastwood, Macquarie City, Newcastle National Park, Port Hacking, Port Macquarie, Sawtell, Urunga, and Wagga Wagga, There are two very full accounts of the Pennants Competitions for 2013 both in Golf and Association. Peter Freer sent us snippets from overseas and Lester Hughes (who sadly left CNSW to continue his croquetting in Melbourne) has given an interesting account of the final of the World GC Singles.

Peter Smith has written an important piece on the Handicap system and there is an important message from Beverley Smith in relation to GC Referee reaccreditation.

For the most part, the results of various CNSW competitions are shown but there are few reports to accompany the results as most events are run on a self-managed basis.

ACA's Interstate Golf Croquet challenge has been on in the Hunter region. I was able to attend this event to assist with refereeing. The standard of play was impressive and having sunny, rain free days certainly made conditions favourable to good, close tussles. It is tiring enough as a referee, how much more so for the players! It was great to see how many willing referees there were on hand to assist with the various competitions. Beverley Smith did a great job co-ordinating referees for all the venues involved. Peter Smith took time out from his managerial duties with the State Team to write a summary of the various events for this Newsletter. He also designed the logo for the event, that was used on the program as well as on commemorative T-shirts.

Enjoy Spring and good croquetting! Remember to send articles to the Newsletter.

Wendy Fothergill

Closing date for December issue:

Finally I would like to thank the outgoing Executive for their time, effort and support over the last twelve months. They have served CNSW well. Thank you John Eddes, Pam Gentle, Wendy Fothergill and Alison Sharpe.

John Compton

BRANXTON CROQUET CLUB TURNS 10

On the 17th May 2013 Branxton Croquet Club celebrated its 10th Anniversary by holding a Golf Croquet Gala Day. There were nine Clubs represented on the day. The games were played in perfect autumn weather with the rural surrounds being the perfect backdrop. Winners on the day were Shirley and Kevin Page from Toronto Club. Our celebratory cake was cut by two of our original members Clare Clark and Ruth Harden.

We are pleased to report that our club has grown over those ten years and we now have thirty members who enjoy the challenges of croquet. A great day was had by all who attended and we look forward to future growth and many more successful anniversary celebrations.



Ruth and Clare cut the cake

Maureen Dick
Publicity Officer



COME AND TRY AT PORT HACKING

Port Hacking Croquet Club was very pleased to host a "Come and Try" croquet day during Seniors Week in March.

There were 44 participants on the day and those that attended thought it was a great day and really enjoyed learning about croquet. Quite a few expressed interest in joining the club.

The social committee did an excellent job providing morning tea and a sausage sizzle lunch. It was a beautiful day and visitors and club members all had a good time.



Pauline Brown
Secretary

URUNGA CROQUET CLUB 22nd Annual Association Carnival

Our Association carnival was held 15 – 21 June, with 24 players from as far afield as Village Glen (Victoria), Albury, Milton Ulladulla and Sutherland joining north coast players to enjoy a week of good competition and a very relaxed friendly atmosphere. Play commenced on the Saturday with an Egyptian event, the atmosphere was light but the competition fierce. After a formal welcome on the Sunday morning we got down to the singles round robin matches.

The social aspects of the carnival should not be forgotten and our thanks to Sammy and Suki from Lui's Restaurant at the C.ex Urunga Golf & Sports Club for the carnival dinner on the Tuesday and the finger food during the presentation on the Friday. We would also like to thank our sponsor for this event, Coffs Ex-Services Memorial and Sporting Club for their continued support of our carnivals.

Playing never kept everyone busy enough and three players took time out to attend a Level O Golf Croquet coaching course on the Tuesday to fill in the afternoon. Congratulations to Penny Jude and Jim Elston who were the only players to win 5 singles games.

Egyptian Results

A Block

Winner: Brian Manton (National Park)
Runner-up: Bill Blaikie (Forster)

B Block

Winner: Marion Pike (Urunga)
Runner-up: John Piggott (Urunga)

Singles Results

A Block

Winner: Bill Strick (Taree)
Runner-up: Bill Blaikie (Forster)

B Block

Winner: Jim Elston (Milton Ulladulla)
Runner-up: Jill Manton (National Park)

C Block

Winner: John Piggott (Urunga)
Runner-up: Ros Johnstone (Sutherland)

D Block

Winner: Penny Jude (Forster)
Runner-up: Elmore Lieschke (Albury)

Carnivals do not just happen and the Urunga Club had a number of willing helpers. Danny our Greenkeeper was in very early each morning to mow. This saved us having to use the dew broom to sweep the lawns before John Piggott with assistance from Bill Blaikie (Forster) and Graham Morrison

(Village Glen Victoria) set the hoops. John Cate had the role of Tournament Manager and Barb Piggott Assistant Manager, Tournament Referee and Handicapper. Jenni Demkin and her helpers in the kitchen ensured everyone was kept hydrated and well fed.



Bill Strick (winner of the Singles in Block A)



Jenny Arnold in action watched by Debbie Anderson



**Barb Piggott
Captain**

Photographs taken by Barb Piggott



VISIT THE CNSW
WEB SITE @
<http://www.croquet-nsw.org>



The Newsletter is sponsored
by
the NSW Department of
Sport & Recreation

SUNNY SAWTELL AGAIN

This year we played our four days of GC Carnival in mid-June after three years of being washed out in mid-May – and it worked. There was 30 mls of rain overnight, but we woke to a beautiful sunny morning of day one and again on days two, three and four.

Thirty six players from Sutherland in the south to Nambour in the north contested in three doubles and four singles blocks. Seven of the thirty six players were playing in their first ever carnival, some of them were in the winner's circle. We hope that this will encourage more players to enter in the future. We started each day with two or three doubles games and the singles followed.

Winners

Doubles

Block G: Bob Doepel and Jenny Burgess

R/u: Ros Johnstone and Harry Seller

Block O: Fay Ross and Helen Maybury

R/u: Kevin Page and Daphne Young

Block L - Wendy Forbes and Jan Sullivan

R/u: Ian Sullivan and Bill Singleton

Singles

Block A: Ron Johnstone (Sutherland)

R/u: Bob Hokin (Taree)

Block B: Tom Maginnity (Sawtell)

R/u: Bill Strick (Taree)

Block C: Keith Robinson (Blue Mountains)

R/u: Jan Sullivan (Forster)

Block D: Harry Seller (Sawtell)

R/u: Ray Griffiths (Woolgoolga)

As always carnivals are a team effort: the club members who work tirelessly in preparation and behind the scenes and the players who come to enjoy competition but also help out with refereeing and happily accept last minute changes.

We look forward to doing it all again next year.



*Photos of the
Doubles Winners*



*Jenny Arnold
Tournament Manager*

GATEBALL AT WAGGA WAGGA



Photo shows Wagga Wagga Croquet Club member Tjanna La discussing the game of gateball with some students who were staying at Borambola for a week of sports organised by Sport and Recreation during the second week of the school holidays.

Six members of the Wagga Club attended and organised croquet games for twenty-two children aged from 10 - 13.

The games were extremely well received and the children certainly enjoyed all the croquet associated activities Wagga Club had organised.



AND A NEW LAWN!



TAFE students have commenced work on Wagga Wagga Croquet Club's third lawn. Over the next few months a sprinkler system will be installed with lawn to be sown around October. Hopefully by next year, we will have three excellent croquet lawns which will be available for our tournament in March.

Robyn Willis



**NEWCASTLE NATIONAL PARK
GOLF CROQUET CARNIVAL
8 - 10 June**

They came from near and they came from far just to participate in our Golf Croquet Carnival – all 62 of them. Young, Tamworth, Blue Mountains, Dubbo, Killara, and Cheltenham all had competitors. And, of course there were those from local Clubs – Macquarie City, Toronto, Maitland, Mt. Sugarloaf and Myall Park, as well as some of our own members. It rained on the Saturday and we thought, 'oh – not again', but fortunately it was all finished by the next day - Sunday and Monday were perfect.

Larry Bryant (Games Captain) was ably assisted by his wife, Lyn, Elaine McDiarmid and Kerrie Sutherland. They kept the scores up to date and did all the organizational things that have to be done. Jill Manton as Tournament Referee, somehow or another managed to have referees for all the games. The amount of work she and husband Brian did with refereeing was immense – I don't think they had a single break for three days. The kitchen staff were magnificent and the hot water urns and catering were well organised, especially the sausage sizzle luncheon on Monday cooked by members, John Ferris and John Sutherland.



All events ran like clock-work. Then there were the members who set up lawns daily and organised all the necessary equipment.

Enid Norris, Sponsorship Officer, worked hard taking photos, and organising raffles, as well as competing. However, the thing that really stood out was the "Pied Piper of Hamelin" scene of her being followed by a 'gurgle' of magpies as she walked from the clubhouse to lawn 4. I know it's supposed to be called a 'tiding of magpies', but the six she attracted were 'gurgling' along behind her begging for food. At various times she stopped and told them to go away, but there was no way they were leaving because they were hoping for some more biscuit crumbs.

Prizes (sponsored by Newcastle City Council) were spread around the Clubs as follows :-

Group 1

Winners: John Levick (NNP) and Steven Harden (Tamworth)

Runners-up: Graham Innocent (Dubbo) & Doug Leabeater (Blue Mountains)

It was anticipated that John and Steve would win and they did not lose a game, but we must say that they only beat the runners-up by one hoop in their contest. It was a very tight-fought game watched by many spectators (see photo below)!!



Group 2

Winners: Wal Mills and John Pace (Maitland)

Runners-up: Bill and Marie Munns (playing for Mt. Sugarloaf)

In the game against the winners, Elaine McDiarmid and Pam Ingham (both NNP) managed to put their opponents' balls through two hoops and into the jaws on another two occasions. Needless to say they were thrashed 10-1. Embarrassing to say the least.

Group 3

Winners: Margaret Pedemont and Pam Wiemers (Toronto)

Runner-up: Jan Ingham and Lorraine Craig (Macquarie City)

Group 4

Winners: Ron and Sharon Bell (Mt. Sugarloaf)

Runners-up: Don Rankin and Glenda Yardy (Mt. Sugarloaf).

First-time visitors specifically mentioned how much they enjoyed the competition and remarked that they "would be back again".

Pam Ingham

Photos courtesy of Enid Norris

NEWCASTLE NATIONAL PARK'S INAUGURAL GATEBALL COMPETITION

JULY 6-7

Newcastle National Park's Gateball Inaugural "Fun Weekend" was held in perfect winter weather over the first weekend in July and was a huge success. There were six teams entered with thirty-two players. Teams came from the Blue Mountains, EDSACC and Epstars (players from Epping, Eastwood and Killara), as well as NNP's teams of the Wild Turkeys, Purple Penguins and Green Ninjas. For the latter three teams we had experienced 'gateballers' from Canberra (Glen and Kristina Whitehead) and Wagga Wagga (Josh Willsher) acting as the respective captains.

The teams round robin on the Saturday saw EDSACC winning one game, the Blue Mountains and NNP Wild Turkeys won two games each and the Green Ninjas and Purple Penguins won three games each, but the winners with four games were the Epstars.

The doubles event on the Sunday was unique in a gateball carnival in that each player played with a different partner for all their games. We weren't sure how it would go but I think this made it more "fun" with everyone enjoying it. The overall winner was Glen Whitehead from Canberra with 5 wins. Coming in next with 4 wins each and decided by net points were John Ferris, then Max Wiltshire (both from NNP).



The "Wild Turkeys": Fred Harvey, Max Wiltshire, Glen Whitehead, John Sutherland and John Ferris

Photo courtesy Enid Norris

The "encouragement award" went to the player who did not win any games – this was between myself (Kerrie) and Brenda Wild (NNP) – Brenda won this with the least net points.

The social dinner and trivia at the Saturday night's celebration was enjoyed by over twenty players. The raffle, which was drawn by 10 month old baby James

Kent, was won by Adolphe Parfait from EDSACC.



**Baby James makes it trough hoop 1
(photo courtesy of his dad, Adam)**

Our thanks go to John Park (Blue Mountains) for all his advice; to other clubs who brought equipment; and to Josh Willsher (Wagga Wagga) who acted as Tournament Referee. And, a great big thank-you to all our kitchen helpers and everyone who helped with setting up and cleaning up over the weekend. It would not have been the success it was without all of you!

We have received some feedback – Suzy Parfait from EDSACC wrote "Thank you, National Park and all your organisers and helpers for the gateball weekend. It was very enjoyable and a success." Maggi Williams (Blue Mountains) wrote "it was a terrific weekend - so well organised. We all enjoyed it very much. I must say I was a bit daunted at the idea of the pairs' comp, but it turned out to be such a sociable and relaxed event that we all said what fun we had. Thank-you (Kerrie), Judy Squelch and everyone else at the club for the great organisation and a super weekend."

**Kerrie Sutherland
Asst. Games Captain - Gateball**



SOME DUBBO DOINGS

The Club has been successful in welcoming new players, also enjoying constructive improvements to the outdoor entertaining area, making it comfortable in both Summer and Winter. The old weather shelter at court 2 was converted to a secure storage lockup for our playing equipment.

In April GC Friendship Games took place between Dubbo, Orange, and Young, hosted by Orange. Young retained the shield for another year. Many thanks to Orange for wonderful hospitality. Next year will be hosted by Young CC. The challenge is on!

To expand our GC knowledge, the club is learning the tactics of Ricochet.

The greens are improving and we have lights which enable the opportunity to play on Summer nights.

We are pleased to have Beth Stanley as our newly elected President.

**Lilla Logan
Publicity Officer**

PORT MACQUARIE ASSOCIATION CROQUET
CARNIVAL

Our 58th Annual Association Carnival was held at our Buller Street courts from 22 – 26 July in near perfect weather for the five days of competition. Thirty players from sixteen NSW clubs made up the five blocks of round robin competition. There were some nail biting finishes with twelve of the games being won by one point, the winners were:

Block A: Winner: Jim Hicks (Port Macquarie);

Runner-up: John Deeves (Nowra)

Block B: Winner: Peter Smith (Maitland)

Runner-up: Jim Elston (Milton-Ulladulla)

Block C: Fay Simpson (Killara)

Runner-up: John Piggott (Urunga)

Block D: Winner: Glen Coulton (Toronto)

Runner-up: Margaret Gray (Newcastle/Nat. Park)

Block E: Paul Mitchell (Port Macquarie)

Runner-up: David Gibson (Manly)

Fay Simpson and Paul Mitchell won all their games. I would like to add that Paul only started playing association croquet earlier this year and this is the first singles competition that he has entered.

As Tournament Referee Bridget Earle was able to appoint a referee in charge for every game, thanks to players and the following who volunteered: Robin Shenton, John Watson, Kurt Beck, Thyra Neilson, Lynette Bryant and Barbara Piggott.

The three social events held during the five days were very enjoyable and well attended. During the days players were very well looked after by our silent workers who supplied us with vast quantities of homemade cakes, slices, scones and soups.

Also during the carnival Herman Camphuis took hundreds of photos, some of which I am sharing here.



Top Left:
Bill Blaikie



Top Right: Jim Els



Margaret Gray



Peter Smith



Paul Mitchell



President John Hincks with Carnival winner, Jim Hicks

Sue Moss



IN NEED OF
A HOME AWAY
FROM HOME

Airbnb is a web site for finding reasonably priced accommodation anywhere in the world .

My first experience with Airbnb was at Marrickville on Thursday August 1st to Sunday August 3rd. Carmel was my hostess and my room in her flat at Perry Street Marrickville (just 15 minute drive from Mackey Park) was clean and comfortable. The room was warm and sunny with a double bed. I provided all of my own meals and mostly had the flat to myself. The only down side was the five flights of steps as the flat was on the top floor of an apartment building and there was no microwave. I was able to use the kitchen for preparing meals.

Cost was \$49 per night, \$15 cleaning fee and \$20 booking fee to Airbnb, total \$182 for three nights.

With Airbnb you can book a single room or a whole house anywhere in the world, just Google Airbnb and put in where you want to go.

There is a large number of places close to Tempe for people from the country wanting accommodation.

Margaret Sawers

ANOTHER GREAT WINTER TOURNAMENT

Macquarie City held its Second Tournament after more persuasion 3-5 July at Pelican. Our local Member Jill Hall opened the competition for the second year and we put on three lovely fine days after the previous very wet weekend.



We had thirty-six players from twelve clubs as far as Dubbo, Young, Canberra, Forster, South West Rocks and many from our closer clubs. There were 45 double and 90 singles games over the level play Tournament.

Doubles Winners

Block A:

Barb Piggott and Doug Leabeater

Block B:

John Ball and Shirley Close

Block C:

Debbie Anderson and Pam Wiemers

Singles Winners:

Block A: Graham Innocent

Runner-up: Tony Hall

Block B: Doug Leabeater

Runner-up: Shirley Page

Block C: Robert Greig

Runner-up: Bernie McAlary

Block D: Carol Goodman

Runner-up: Edna Kelly

Block E: Sandra Jones

Runner-up: Bev Lopez

Block F: Helen McKay

Runner-up: Judy Chidgey

Our 'Lovely Legs' competition was won by Graham Innocent with a prize to suit those legs. On the Thursday night another splendid dinner at the 16 ft. Sailing Club with forty going and Terry finally worked out how to open Lorraine's bathroom door (better

luck next year).

Thankyou to the seven non-playing referees being relieved briefly by playing referees and all organised by Barb Piggott our Tournament Referee. Thanks Barb. Thanks to all our helpers and Pete Smith for the Block photos and the time spent on the lead-up, and last of all the players who supplied wonderful friendly games to make this Tournament a success.

**SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR,
HAPPY CROQUETING**



**Jan Ingham
Tournament Manager**

**ANYONE INTERESTED IN A CROQUET HOLIDAY
COMPETITION ON NORFOLK ISLAND NEXT YEAR?**

From: "Michael (Boo) Prentice"

<michaelprentice@bigpond.com>

Date: 28 July 2013 1:14:41 PM

Subject: 'Convicts Cup' Croquet Tournament
Norfolk Island 2014

Press Release from "Michael Boo Prentice" contact

michaelprentice@bigpond.com

Dated 1st August 2013

"Norfolk Island will host a new social golf rules croquet tournament to be known as the 'Convicts Cup'. The new tournament will be played on grass inside the old ruins known as the 'old jail complex' at Kingston, Norfolk Island. This sheltered compound was built by penal labour in the 1840's, and once housed some of the 800 convicts. The compound provides shelter from all the winds, and is on the picturesque shores of the swimming beach at Slaughter Bay.

"Norfolk is the perfect place to house such a tournament" Michael said, "it is an historic, scenic place and is close to the Gateway ports of Sydney, Brisbane and Auckland. Several Norfolk teams will participate with teams from the South Pacific, Australia and New Zealand being invited. Visitors will have time to take in the Island's attractions and enjoy Norfolk hospitality between games days".

If you are interested please contact Michael on his email.





Gold Singles 23-24 May

**Winner: Barbara McDonald
(Chatswood)**

Runner-up: Michael Strickland (Mosman)

A group of five players had entered this event: John Bartrop Greg Deakin, Stewart Johnston, Barbara McDonald and Michael Strickland.

NSW Mens Open Singles 31 May—2 June

Winner: Alan Walsh (Chatswood)
Runner-up: Peter Landrebe (Cammeray)

Fourteen contestants (another one had had to withdraw due to ill health) turned for this event which was held at two venues, Mosman Club and Tempe Headquarters. Divided into two blocks of seven, Block A was won by Alan Walsh, runner-up Peter Landrebe and Block B was won by Jim Nicholls with John Levick the runner-up.

The final ended up being a tussle between Alan and Peter, with Alan the victor, 26-0.

Women's Open Golf Croquet Championship 8—11 April

This event was held in April, and the winner and runner up were announced in the last CNSW Newsletter.

In addition to our regular players Pam Gentle, Barb Piggott, Lorna Davies, Lyn Dimech and Ros Johnstone who turn up every year, we had three newcomers from Sutherland

One of these players, Jaye Danna, had this event on her to do list, so two of her friends Margaret Morters and Janett Midgley with some trepidation decided to support her and put their names down to have a go.

These three players, who, on handicap would be classified as Division 3 players, played above themselves, each winning games, and having some hard fought battles against all comers.

We all enjoyed the competitiveness of the event, the friendliness of the entrants and our members at Sutherland are particularly pleased that Jaye achieved her dream of playing in the CNSW Women's Open Championship as it is with great sadness that I announce that Jaye lost her battle with cancer, a battle she has fought over a number of years: Jaye died on 25th June this year. Jaye's stoic acceptance and dignity in the face of her terminal illness was an inspiration to all who knew her.



Ros Johnstone

Beryl Chambers Finals 7-10 June

A field of eight contestants participated in the finals of the Beryl Chambers.

Winner: Neil Hardie (Cammeray)
Runner-up: Wall Fernance (Sutherland)

The other participants were Reece Keogh (Eastwood), Diane Scott (Wollongong), Ted Salter (Hunters Hill), Margaret Sawers (Nowra), Michael Strickland (Mosman) and Richard Thomas (Strathfield).



NSW Women's Open Singles (AC) 21-23 June

Winner: Alison Sharp (Killara)
Runner-up: Rosemary Landrebe (Cammeray)
Other contenders were Barbara McDonald (Cammeray), Barbara McTiernan (Forster) and Annette du Preez (Cammeray)



NSW GC Bronze Medal, 5-7 July 2013

And The Winner Is..... Steven Harden (Tamworth) - by 4 net hoops - from runner up Peter Landrebe (Cammeray) !!

The original 10 invitees became 9 after Rosemary Landrebe's work commitments made it impossible for her to play the first two rounds.

Three glorious-weather days enabled the combatants to enjoy the challenge of six rounds of play each day. The longest game took 1 hour 50 minutes, with the shortest about 30 minutes.

The spectators enjoyed the on court struggles (as did many of the Concordia Club patrons on Saturday and Sunday). Many of the matches were 7/6 or 7/5 - nice close results. Thanks again to the keen referees (Beverley, Carol, Wendy, Kath, Jacky, Rayna, Chris, Pat and Fay) who once again generously gave their time and expertise.

We all wish Steven the best of luck, good hooping and straight roquets when he takes on the Bronze Medal holders from the other five States in August at Macquarie City Croquet Club for the prestigious Gold and Silver Medals.



Robyn Compton (TM)

CNSW PENNANTS 2013

GOLF CROQUET

Division 1 Pennants 15-17 July 2013

Congratulations to the six teams (Forster, Maitland, Cammeray, Manly, Sydney and Sutherland) who fought out the Division 1 Pennants. Originally there were 8 teams entered but Canberra and Illawarra had to withdraw for various reasons. We hope to see them in 2014.

Each team had played one match prior to the 3 Day Carnival held 15-17 July at CNSW Headquarters (Tempe). Competition was very focused and all players enjoyed the challenge of playing other very able teams.

Matches were hard fought – often the scores did not reflect the closeness of the games (which were Best of 3 format). Some games were completed quickly whilst a couple took the 4 hour time allocation.

Our spectators enjoyed watching the battles and applauded good shots from all teams.

Thanks again to those intrepid people collectively known as The Referees – Beverley Smith, Wendy Fothergill, Pat Johnston, Elaine Coles, Ron Johnstone, Ros Johnstone, John Compton and Peter Smith. The players appreciated having referees for their matches – it really reinforced the importance of the competition. Well Done, Refs!!

Division 2 Pennants Finals, 20th June 2013

Despite expecting rain, we were fortunate to have a nice wintery, but sunny day.

The hoops were put in by the yet-to-become Tournament Manager (John Compton) by 8.30am, ready for the teams to join us, coming by car and train for The Big Event.

Referees (Beverley Smith, Peter Smith and Wendy Fothergill) toiled away all day - Thanks very much for being interested and available - Your work is greatly appreciated by all of us.

The four teams represented were Nowra, Wollongong, Mosman and Maitland Black. After the welcome and initial instructions from the Tournament Manager the teams set off for combat in the Semifinals - Nowra vs Mosman, Wollongong vs Maitland Black.

At the end of the semi-finals, Nowra and Wollongong had been defeated and thus Mosman and Maitland Black took to the lawns for The Final. A really good tussle in all matches!

Congratulations to Mosman (the victors) - 2 matches

to 1, 4 games all, 44 hoops to 48. Commiserations to Maitland Black.

Hopefully all 2013 Participating Clubs and more clubs / teams will embrace Golf Croquet Pennants in 2014.)

Division 3 Pennants Finals, 27 June 2013

At Tempe our day was overcast, but luckily none of the forecast rain visited us. The lawns were all set by 8.30am by Peter Smith and John Compton ready for our competitors to arrive and practise on the Tempe lawns as none (or hardly any) had played there before. Beverley Smith had organized a contingent of Referees (Carol Hayes, Kath Coull, John Eddes, John Compton, Peter Smith and herself) so that each match had a referee. This was wise as there were a variety of faults committed by our eager Division 3 combatants in their quest for a hoop. Thanks again to the referees for your commitment to our Golf Croquet players.

The four teams - Canberra, Sutherland White, Jamberoo White and Killara - began their semifinals at the scheduled 9.30am starting time. After the lucky dip draw the semifinals were: Canberra vs Sutherland White and Jamberoo White vs Killara. Both matches were very close, with the outcome being dependent on the Doubles. The Jamberoo / Killara Doubles match (of 3 close seamless games) went for nearly 5 hours whilst the Canberra / Sutherland match was just a bit shorter - very tight, highly contested matches.

Then off to the Finals for Canberra and Jamberoo White. Once again the matches were highly competitive with the two deciding matches finishing within 5 minutes of each other just after 5pm. Luckily we didn't need to use car lights to continue play in the dark.

So, who won? The Division 3 Golf Croquet Pennants winners were Canberra, with Jamberoo White the runners up - 2 matches to 1, 5 games to 2, 44 hoops to 36.

An excellent contest which kept the spectators on the edge of their seats. Congratulations to the groups from Canberra, Sutherland and Jamberoo who, decked in club colours, came to support their teams. We are looking forward to 2014 Golf Croquet Pennants.

Robyn Compton
Golf Croquet Pennants Organiser

*(Robyn also found time to play with Div 2
Maitland Well done, Robyn.)*



ASSOCIATION PENNANTS

The Pennants season for 2013 has now been completed, with a total of thirty-five matches and 119 games being played in four divisions. All games were played in good spirit, and the weather was kind to us on most occasions. Thanks to all who took part, players, referees, coaches and venue managers. Results of all matches played were put onto CroquetScores (www.croquetscores.com) within hours of the completion of the match, and full details can be seen there. Thanks to all team captains for their prompt advice of results.

Bronze Pennants

Winner: Cammeray 1
Runner-up: Strathfield

Seven teams took part in this competition, from Cammeray (2 teams), Chatswood, Hurstville, Killara, Manly and Strathfield. Teams were made up of a mixture of experienced pennants players and newcomers, and from all reports the newcomers found the experience well worth while, though occasionally a little daunting.

With one round to play, Manly (who had the bye in the last round) had won 4 matches and lost 2, having won 11 games and lost 7. They were in the running to win the competition, along with Cammeray 1, Hurstville and Strathfield. Strathfield had won 4 matches and only lost 1, winning 11 games and losing 4. Cammeray 1 had won 3 matches and lost 2, but also had an 11-4 games record. Hurstville, also were 3-2 on matches, but 8-7 on games.

The stage was set for an exciting last round. Strathfield looked to be the likely winners, as they were playing Killara who had only had one match win. If Killara could beat Strathfield 3-0 and Hurstville could beat Cammeray 1 3-0, all four teams would finish on 4 matches to 2, and on 11 games to 7.

Luckily for Cammeray 1, they were able to win all 3 games against Hurstville, and Killara put in a mighty effort to beat the strong Strathfield team 3-0, leaving Cammeray 1, Manly and Strathfield all with 4 match wins, but with Cammeray 1 ahead with 14 games won, 3 ahead of both Manly and Strathfield. Strathfield was declared runner-up with better net hoops than Manly, also having beaten Manly when they played. Every team won at least one match, and all teams are looking forward to doing battle again in 2014. Hopefully then we can see some teams from the country taking part.

Silver Pennants

Winner: Mosman,
Runner-up: Strathfield

Only three teams, Chatswood, Mosman and

Strathfield, entered this division of the competition which was very disappointing given the strength of this level in recent years. More disappointing was the withdrawal of Chatswood a few days before the competition was to start. Mosman and Strathfield played a home-and-away series, with Mosman winning both matches to win the event.

Gold Pennants

Winner: Cammeray
Runner-up: Killara

Five teams entered this competition, from Cammeray, Killara, Maitland, Mosman and Warrawee. This was Warrawee's first time playing Pennants, and they enjoyed the experience even though they were not able to win a match. The opening round saw Killara host Cammeray in what turned out to be the decisive match. Killara won the doubles, and Chris Lavina had a good win against John Bartrop. The match was in the balance with the game between Greg Deakin and Neil Hardie being the decider. With only a few minutes to go Greg was ahead, but Neil managed to grab victory after the bell to win 24-22. Both teams were undefeated for the rest of the competition, with Cammeray winning and Killara as runners-up. If you want to see a grown man cry, remind Greg when you see him that if he had won that game, Killara would have won the competition!

Premier Pennants

Winner: Canberra
Runner-up: Cammeray

After an absence of 5 years, the Premier Pennants took place again this year, with teams from Cammeray and Canberra taking part. The format of this competition is quite different to the other grades, with each match consisting of 10 games, two doubles and 8 singles. Each player in the 4-man team plays one game of doubles and two games of singles on the day.

Canberra hosted Cammeray early in July, and won 8 games to 2. Cammeray's two wins were upset wins by Stephen Howes and Neil Hartley, against the more highly ranked Charlotte Morgan and Nick Chapman. The return match at Cammeray on 4 August was won by Cammeray 7 games to 3, leaving Canberra the overall winner 11 games to 9. A most enjoyable event, with some excellent croquet being played. Hopefully we can see at least one other team taking part next year.



David Stanton
AC Pennants Manager 2013
CNSW Tournament Committee

More results p. 15



Peter Freer (Canberra)

reports that he has just won the Midsummer GC Open at Woking, outside London Peter lost only one of 13 games, against a quality field. Good preparation for the British GC Open...

Steve Thornton (Maitland/Brunswick) also did well, to come fourth and move from GC 3 to GC 2. Next stop Northampton CC, and Ashby-de-la-Zouch CC after that.....

Regards,
Peter



“Recent research at Pigra near Lake Como has revealed evidence of a royal assassination attempt involving a croquet mallet...”

Further research is required – please send cheques c/o Club Captain, Canberra Croquet Club....”



More on the World GC Championship

For want of a Hoop

The Nile is a river alive with party boats on which a thirsty Australian can buy a drink. The Nile flows thru Cairo the city of traffic noise “TOOT TOOT BEEP TOOT BEEP” and the six times a day azan or call to prayer, yes early in the morning, 3AM EARLY! And people who say “Welcome to Egypt”. Egypt was the host of the 2013 Golf Croquet World champs!

Cairo was home to three venues, the Federation, Gezirah and Shooting Clubs. These clubs combined to have eight courts, most with big rabbit runs. But a little sand here, a little sand there and they are ready to play. 8 courts 64 players = long days, finishing well after midnight during the block stage. The Block stage of the tournament served up some close finishes but all the major contenders moved into the next phase, the knockout!

Five Australians (me included) made the knockout draw with Terry Ericson and John Van Der Touw the best performed advancing to the round of sixteen before being knocked out by very highly rated opponents.

Not to say that a high standard of Croquet had not been played in the Championship up to this stage, but the quarter finals seemed to help shift some of the main contenders into another gear.

LETTERS

The Final Ahmed Nasr vs Reg Bamford

Both players had only lost three games to this point and one of them was destined to lose three more. While I had not seen Reg or Ahmed play before this tournament I had the feeling going into the final Reg was probably further from his best form than Ahmed was from his. But as top players should, they both found better form for the final and what form it was!

It was by far the best Golf Croquet I have seen in my short time in the game. The level Ahmed reached at times was head shakingly (worth making up a new word for) superb. **Check out the first four hoops of game four on youtube if you don't believe me. Just type 2013 Golf Croquet World Championships into the youtube search engine.**

There was a hoop six in one of the games (I'm sorry I don't recall which game) which highlighted the skills of both players. Control of the hoop swapped at least twice after more long distance clearances than I would play in a match and was won by Ahmed jumping from distance with both Reg's balls in front of the hoop. But for all those highs Ahmed was destined to fall one hoop short as both Reg's skill and nerve were a little more consistent and held strong when needed. No greater credit can be given to Reg and the way he applied his experience, skill (both physical and creative) and the nerve it took to come back from being 6-2 down in the final game against a rampaging Ahmed with the very vocal support of the local crowd. Hoops twelve and thirteen of that final game showcased the joy of Golf Croquet for me. It's about being creative enough to make it work, and at that, the most crucial part of the match. Reg ticked all the boxes.

The final score 7-5, 3-7, 7-6, 4-7, 7-6
Congratulations Reg Bamford

There were some quick speeches after the match then we were all bussed off to dinner. At dinner we were presented with a medal stamped with our finishing place out of the 64 players that attended. My medal sits above the fire place with 28th stamped on it. For me personally I really enjoyed the experience and I learned more about the game.

I didn't play to the level I know I can which was a little disappointing but even if I had the number on that medal would not be significantly smaller.

Thankyou to the Mosman and Belmont Croquet Clubs for your support.

Lester Hughes



PROBLEMS WITH CNSW HANDICAP EVENTS.

Shortly, CNSW will conduct its annual Doubles and singles Handicap Championship on the Taree and Port Macquarie lawns.

As usual there will most probably be murmurs and possibly even complaints about the inappropriate handicap of some players. This is something that always takes the gloss off an event, especially when a poorly handicapped player takes a podium position. It is very disheartening for the other competitors and it must be embarrassing for the poorly handicapped player.

How can we avoid this situation?

Immediately coming to mind is the role that the Tournament Handicapper (TH) takes. Some will suggest that the TH change the H/C immediately someone has shown a great result. Sounds simple but on further examination a number of serious problems impinge on this solution. For example most of us suffer from those dreaded "phases"...you know them I'm sure.. (you can't run a hoop from 30cm in front, you can't roquet from 1m or on the other side of the coin, you can't miss from one end of the field to the other and the hoops are like a two-car garage.... If only they would stay like that.) Usually the latter condition only lasts a short time (unfortunately) so when Fred had a "blinder" for one day during a tournament, and reverts to his usual level on day 2 we can accept that as not too unusual. If, however, Fred continues to slash the field on days 2 and 3 we are entitled to ask questions. But who could foresee a continuation of form after day 1. (just imagine if Fred was re-handicapped by at least 1 level and reverted to his usual form. What a turn-off for Fred and all other players too?) The TH has to make a very serious decision and you can bet whichever way it goes it will not be good.

Also adding to the problem is the fact that Fred (the Rapid Improver [RI]) is just a name in the entry list and is not known to anyone, especially the TH. (If Fred's club sent a letter explaining that he is a rising star and may be poorly handicapped at least some guide is available for assistance to TH).

How much better if, prior to the event, players realistically looked at their handicap with their Club Handicapper (CH) or other respected championship players and adjusted their handicap accordingly. The AHS (Automatic Handicap System) looks after players over a long period of time who are progressing at a modest rate. It is not very good at looking after RIs who spring up unexpectedly and cause all sorts of problems. The CH should identify RIs and/or badly handicapped players in the club. The club captain, the President and the player

together with the CH should meet and discuss the dilemma and use any records which may have been kept or substantial observations or recommendations from respected championship players who have watched/played Fred. Sense will surely prevail and a new handicap may be entered on the AHS form (with something like "DATE... Rapid Improver. ...H/C now = #....Index now = #... signed Joe Blow Club handicapper on next available line).

Much angst exists about changing handicaps during a competition. At present the AHS does exactly that. As soon as a trigger point is reached a player's handicap is altered. It does this as a recognition of the player's performance. RIs outpace the AHS while badly handicapped players are a problem which should not exist. When the TH identifies either of the above and discusses with the Tournament Manager and the player concerned, he/she is acting as the AHS form does. They are attempting to make play fair. It is unfortunate that some players will have a disadvantage/advantage because they played prior/after the "error" was corrected, however the AHS makes the same decision.

As you can appreciate lots is at stake. NO!? I don't mean world fame or vast riches but I do mean expenses incurred in participating: entering, travelling and time. I would suggest that about \$1000 would be a ball-park figure for our CNSW Handicap Doubles and Singles event (based on husband/wife with almost 2 weeks accom. etc). At the end of the event players will prefer to have had a great time rather than have a sour taste in their throat because their party was spoilt by someone who was not as well prepared as he/she should have been.

If you feel you or someone in your club could be a Rapid Improver or have an incorrect handicap and are considering entering the CNSW Handicap doubles or singles, please do something about it very soon.

Good Hooping!

Peter Smith
State Handicapper

Editor: There has been a lot of correspondence back and forth on the question of Handicap cards through the email : cnswplayers@yahoo.com

Any member of CNSW is entitled to join this group and enjoy comments that get tossed around on a variety of topics.

NSW Open Golf Croquet Singles 2-5 August

Winner: John Levick (Cammeray)

Runner-up: Ron Johnstone (Sutherland)

There was quite a strong group of competitors. These were: Greg Deakin, Nick Macoun, Peter Montague (all Killara), Kim Morrison (Sydney), John Eddes, Ron Bennett, David Woods, Ros Kohnstone (all from Sutherland), Bill Munns (Toronto), Bernie McAlary (Wollongong), Pam Gentle (Maitland).

Selectors 10 16-18 August

Winner: Nick Chapman (Canberra)

Runner-up: Mike Hughes (Cammeray)

There were just nine entrants for this event. Besides the winner and runner-up, they were John Eddes (Sutherland), Stephen Howes (Cammeray), Chris Lavina (Cammeray), Nick Macoun (Killara), Stephen Pearce (Canberra), Ted Salter (Hunters Hill), and David Stanton (Cammeray).



Obit

Mila Kotla, Life Member of Cammeray Club, died in May. Mila made many friends through her association with the club and made a major contribution to the club as a first class secretary. (An outline of Mila's life and contribution to Cammeray club was submitted by Neil Harley in the March 2012 Newsletter).



Pat Purse, Life Member of Urunga Croquet Club, passed away in late June. Pat was the last original member of the Urunga Club from when it formed in 1986 and will be missed by all members.



Jaye Danna, Sutherland Club, died in June, after a struggle with illness.



We extend our sympathy to the families and friends of these CNSW members.

GOLF CROQUET REFEREES ACCREDITATION

Thank you to all the Golf Croquet referees who have had their BLUE accreditation cards signed and recorded for year ending July 2013.

Those referees who passed their exam PRIOR to 2012 and have not had their cards recorded will need to contact me regarding their current status. All re-accredited referees(July2013) will be listed in the 2014 Year Book.

If this task has been an over sight, please contact me immediately to discuss as a matter of urgency.

My contact details are as follows:

email smith.bevj@gmail.com

mobile phone 0415 428 132

Beverley Smith
SDR GC



BALLINA CHERY STREET

Ballina Chery St. Croquet Club has just completed three successful years since its inception. At our recent AGM Clarrie Copeland was elected President, Jan Copeland remained as Secretary and Leonie Oliver is now the Club Captain. We have Games Managers for the three disciplines played.

We are fortunate to have excellent playing lawns and a modern Clubhouse to attract new players to the sport. These facilities are all under the umbrella of the Ballina Bowling and Recreational Club. We play the three forms of Croquet – Association, Golf and Ricochet – Golf being the most popular with Ricochet gaining in numbers.

The Northern Rivers Croquet Association Tournament being played at Lismore and Ballina, begins on 25 August for all forms of the game. Ricochet being played at Tournament level for the first time in the Northern Rivers.

On Monday 19 August we had our Golf Friendship Day with players from Ballina Croquet Inc. and Alstonville clubs participating. Delightful weather made the day perfect as well as providing good companionship.



photo taken at afternoon tea.

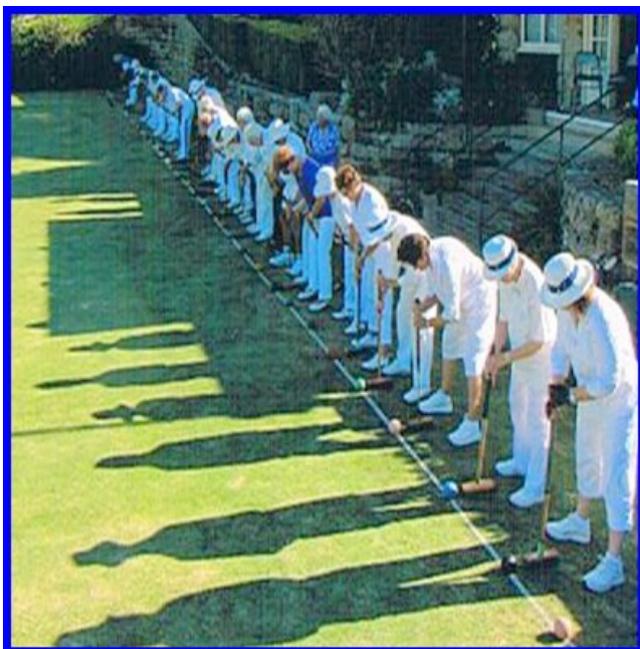
Faye Duncan
Publicity Officer

EASTWOOD CROQUET CLUB

Our new lawns

The Club was without lawns for 3 months earlier this year as our courts were levelled and re-laid with modern grass. In March, we had a grand opening of the new lawns with attendances by the local Councillor Justin Li and Ryde City Council representatives. Our Club looked very festive with ribbons and balloons. Our oldest member, Agnes Evans (95 years young), and our youngest member, Reece Keogh (19 years young), cut the ribbons as our President Graeme de Graaff declared the courts open. Members then lined up to take the first hit on the new lawns all together. We hope that this will make a huge improvement to our play!

Members line up to hit the first balls on our new lawns.



Ryde Sports Foundation Tournament

This Tournament was the first competition held on our new lawns and it was again keenly contested. We played Golf Croquet doubles in a round robin, time limited game and at the end, two teams had the same scores. It was decided that the trophy and gold medals would be awarded to both teams. Certificates were given to all participants. The winning teams were:

Pat Gilchrist and Jill Loader

Robyn Batley and Nick Protos

Ryde Sports Foundation Secretary, Nieta Matthews, presented the awards.

Annual General Meeting

This meeting was held in August and our new President is Pat Gilchrist, with Vice Presidents Graeme de Graaff, Ruth Bridgwood and Margaret Foster. Past President Graeme was thanked for his contribution to the well being of the Club and the club

looks forward to continuing to be a vibrant and active group in the local area with the new Committee.

Gateball

Eastwood (Sandra Townley) has joined with Epping (Clare and Ken Poole, John Campey) and Killara (Greg Deakin) players to form the **Epstars Gateball Team**. The Team plays alternate Sunday mornings at Epping and Eastwood. The Epstars played in the inaugural Newcastle National Park Tournament over the weekend of the 6-7 July. It was a hard won competition and the Epstars were thrilled to have won their first trophy. Newcastle Club can be very proud of their efforts as hosts for the competition as a great time was had by all.

Marist Brothers boys play croquet

Eastwood were hosts to 50 boys from Year 11 Marist Brothers, who were participating in a special sports program as part of their Year 12 requirements. Club members volunteered to teach them Golf Croquet. The boys had never played croquet before, but within a half hour, were playing like veterans, roqueting opponents and getting hoops from almost impossible positions. We would like them to come and play more often and perhaps we will be able to offer regular games for these High School students.

Club Championships

Association Croquet Club Championships and Golf Croquet Championships are being played this month, as well as the Friendship Games (Association Croquet, doubles) between Strathfield, Epping, Holroyd and Eastwood.

The State Director of Coaching, Barb Piggott, will be conducting coaching for Association and Golf at Eastwood on Sunday, 8 September. We will be delighted to host her and expect twenty-four players at each session.



From L to R: Graeme de Graaff, President Pat Gilchrist, Ruth Bridgwood, Margaret Foster

Shirley McLachlan
Secretary