

The GC Interstate team has been hard at work in intensive practice sessions (or, in the case of Alison and Jamie, competing in international competitions). Six practice days have been held, five of them at Tempe, and we gratefully acknowledge Cooks River CC for the the fast and excellently-maintained lawns. One session was held at Killara CC, whom we also thank for making their lawns available. Peter Landrebe has given generously of his time, providing expert and inspiring coaching.

The team members introduce themselves below. It's worth noting that five of the team have been selected for the first time!

Alison Sharpe (Captain)

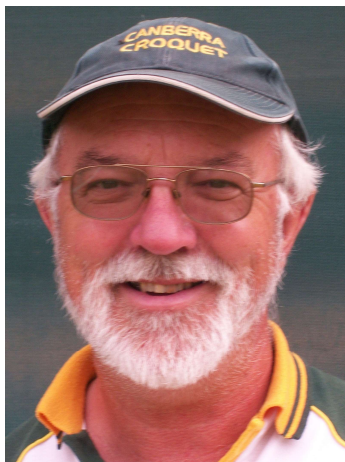


Alison was brought up in Yorkshire where her grandmother taught her Croquet in her back garden. Competitive GC over the last 5 years has taken Alison around Australia as well as overseas on a regular basis.

Alison was the Australian Womens GC champion in 2016 & 2018 and Australia's Open champion for 2018 & 2019. In 2017 she and her son Charlie made Croquet history by being the first mother and son to play together in a Croquet World Championship.

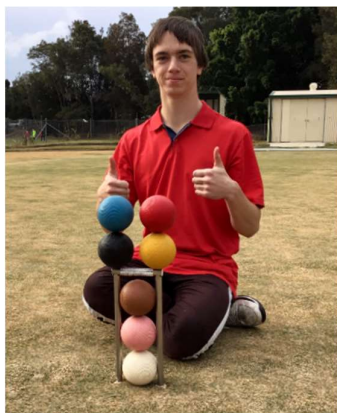
Alison really enjoys playing in the Interstate Shield and particularly likes all the State Teams playing together which makes Cairnlea the perfect venue for the ISS.

Peter Freer (Vice-captain)



I discovered croquet in 1981 when my work-team hired a lawn at the Canberra Croquet Club and I have been a member at Canberra ever since – now 38 years. I took up serious competition in October 2008 after retiring from work; playing Association, Gateball and Ricochet but my preference is Golf Croquet. I have played GC in tournaments across Australia as well as in Egypt, the United Kingdom, Belgium and New Zealand; including 3 World Championships (& 7 InterState Shields). I love refereeing, and am unable to resist coaching at the slightest opportunity. Encouraging Kate (McLoughlin) to take up serious croquet has vastly simplified my croquet travels.

Jamie Gumbrell



Jamie is 19 and is a member of Canberra CC. He was second in the U21 Australian Championship this year. He has just returned from the UK where he participated in the U21 and Open World Championships. He enjoyed the experience of playing top level players. This will be his second Interstate Shield and he is excited to participate and represent NSW again. He studies software engineering at the University of Canberra and enjoys circus and playing trombone and piano in his spare time.

Kate McLoughlin



A member of the Canberra Croquet Club for 7 years, Kate has been enjoying playing more competitively, winning the Australian Handicap doubles in 2017, NSW Division 2 singles in 2018, and being runner up in NSW Women's singles in 2019. A highlight has been playing in the Women's World Championships in New Zealand this year, and being runner up in the Plate. A reserve for NSW ISS team last year, Kate is looking forward to playing for NSW this year, as one of 5 Canberra representatives in the team.

Liz Montague



I belong to Killara, Cheltenham and Cooks River croquet clubs (and until recently also Chatswood, but ran out of time to play at all four!). I am delighted to be in the State team again this year (my fifth). I have been playing croquet for 11 years, starting at Brighton CC in South Australia. Since returning to NSW 7 years ago, I have played AC as well as GC, and enjoyed playing in Division 1 GC Pennants for Killara and Gold AC Pennants for Chatswood. In 2018 I won the NSW Womens Singles championship and this year was runner up in the Selectors First Eight.

David Woods



David Woods is a new addition to the NSW Team line up. He started playing croquet with Sutherland Club in Sydney's south in 2011, taking an instant liking to the sport and in particular its tactical aspects. He commenced as a modest Div 3 level player and worked through the ranks to Div 1 level in 2013. Along the way he entered various State and Interstate competitions and won the NSW Open in 2016. In addition to NSW he has played in South Australia, Western Australia, Victoria, Queensland and New Zealand. He has achieved his croquet ambition, which was to make the State Team. He is a pleasant Irish man and naturalised Australian and loves a pun and is looking forward to inflicting "pun"ishment and fun in competition and socially.

Gerda Lambeck



I have been playing and thoroughly enjoying croquet since retiring as a paediatric physiotherapist 6 years ago. I play mostly Golf Croquet, but have started dabbling in AC. I am a member of the Canberra Croquet Club, and have participated in Pennants comps and enjoy competing in "away" events. Earlier this year I ventured across the Tasman to compete in the NZ Champs and the qualifiers for the women's world championship, and although I was overwhelmed, the experience was fantastic (as was the cycling afterwards!) I am looking forward to my first ISS competition

Chris Williamson



I am a 65 year old ex scaffolder and rigger, who got into croquet about 6 years ago after recovering from a torn Achilles' tendon while playing soccer at 59, old man trying to be young! I play at the Toronto club in the Hunter Region in NSW - we are a very friendly and social club with about 90 members with 7 level 1 coaches who are always willing to assist our members to improve with regular coaching schedules.

Pamela Barnwell



Pamela Barnwell is a proud member of both Newcastle National Park CC and Nelson Bay CC. Pamela has been playing GC for 3 years and has enjoyed advancing to tough tournament matches against the best players in the state and has been fortunate to be selected as the reserve for the 2019 NSW State GC Team. Her interest in Croquet began when her father, Norman, was playing and coaching AC in the 80's and 90's, but work commitments and a hectic schedule made her wait until 2016 to take to the lawns.

Ralph Richardson



Growing up in a large family in Wagga, I enjoyed a range of ball sports as a kid – tennis, baseball and 'Aussie Rules', then played tennis and ten-pin bowling competitively as a young adult. In Canberra I played squash at State level for a few years.

In February 2016 I started playing Croquet after attending a "Come & Try" day, learning both AC and GC and greatly appreciating the coaching and mentoring offered by Peter Freer and Tony Hall in particular amongst others.

At the Canberra Club I participate socially, and as a playing committee member, coach and greens manager.