

CROQUET NSW Inc.

Newsletter

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SEPTEMBER 2011

CNSW Welcomes Byron Bay Croquet Club



On Saturday 30 June 1928 nineteen ladies of the town of Byron Bay met together with the purpose on initiating the first croquet club in the district.

The first game was played on a vacant block in Marvel Street Byron Bay. Soon after that they had arranged a permanent site in the Memorial Park off Tennyson Street. After a rigorous fund-raising period they constructed a small club house within the first 12 months. During this period membership reached 41.

A second green was approved in February 1938

In 2008 the Byron Shire Council replaced the original clubhouse with a new structure of equal size in brick to conform with other clubhouses on the adjoining sports grounds. The formal opening by the Byron Shire Council Mayor in 2008 celebrated the 80th year of the club.

Current membership is 20 and has been around this level for some time. The club participates in NRCA Pennants. Some members enter local area competitions. The club is located in the sports fields in Tennyson Street, Byron Bay, between the scout hall and the tennis courts. There are two full sized playing fields which can be sub-divided, if necessary, into 4 half fields. All members play Association Croquet but we will play Golf Croquet to accommodate visitors. Play-days are Wednesday mornings between 9.30 am and noon, and Saturdays



between 1 and 4 pm. Morning/afternoon teas are included with the \$5.00 green fee.

On regular play-days dress is informal, but neat and presentable. Shoes must be flat soled with adequate protection for toes. On formal days such as Friendship Days, Pennants and for competitions, dress is basically white.

Visitors from Australian or overseas who play either Association or Golf Croquet are most welcome on our play days.



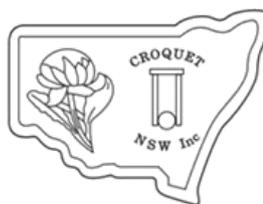
Some local scenery

Randall Rofo



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From the President:

Three NSW members were chosen to compete in the World Open Golf Croquet Championships in July in London. It has been interesting to be able to follow the exploits of John Levick, Joe Dimech and Mike Jenner on the Tournament Website. John was the most successful of the trio qualifying from his block for the knockout. Unfortunately he was defeated in the first round by Sherif Nafee from Egypt. Tony Hall also made his way into the main draw by way of the Qualifying Competition but did not graduate to the knockout phase.

I am pleased to relate that a provisional licence with Marrickville Council for a term of twelve months has now been received. Further details will be given at the CNSW Council meeting in September

Congratulations to the players chosen to represent NSW in the Golf Croquet Interstate Competition. This will be played in Brisbane in September. The team is Chris Pont (Newcastle), Ros Johnstone (Sutherland), Pam Gentle (Maitland), Barb Piggott (Urunga), John Levick (Newcastle), Joe Dimech (Taree), Martin Prins (Mosman), Ron Johnstone (Sutherland), and Mike Jenner. Newcomers to the team Dimech and Piggott have earned their positions with a consistently high standard of play over the past 12 months. Peter Smith and John Compton will manage the team.

The State Pennants Competitions have again drawn disappointing entries. Word of mouth reports from both new and established players indicate that all players enjoyed both the contest and the socialisation with most eager to sign up again in 2012. Well done to the clubs that have made the semi-finals this year: Jamberoo, Maitland, Eastwood, Sydney, Milton-Ulladulla, Branxton, Mosman and Hurstville.

My personal thanks go to all the CNSW Committee members for the time and effort that they have put into their work this year. Without you CNSW would not function.

We mourn the loss in 2011 of two of the stalwarts of Croquet NSW. Mary Fernance and Rita Johnstone gave many years of dedicated service to CNSW. CNSW is forever in their debt.

John Compton

From the Editor

Welcome to Spring everyone! Let's hope the weather soon gives us a sense of the new season.

In the past quarter, weather has been somewhat unkind to some of our clubs. We wish those clubs well with their rebuilding and especially the hassles with Insurance officials which usually follow these events.

Clubs have been busy updating membership records which will be used in the Yearbook. I invite those of you who have a good camera eye to submit one of your photos as a possibility for the cover of the Yearbook - hopefully a good action shot. Entries required by 15 October. People in the photo need to be seen clearly - not just dots in the distance. Regretfully, no one claimed to have completed the crossword included in the last newsletter so there was no prize awarded!

Regardless of the elements, clubs have been busy and there are some interesting reports about serious and fun days around the state.

In particular I draw the attention of all to the article by Roger Evan in regard to the changes in our internet presence. Most importantly, I ask all to take note of the various emails now being used so that the right person can receive the right questions and be able to answer more efficiently. It will just take a little time to get used to the new emails, but be assured the effort will be worth it for all concerned.

Meantime, enjoy your croquet!

Wendy Fothergill

newsletter@croquet-nsw.org

Closing date for December issue: 21 November

Expressions of Interest

The ACA is seeking expressions of interest for the position of **ACA High Performance Manager**.

All applications are to be in writing to the Executive Director, ACA, PO Box 254, Dickson ACT 2602 by the 30th September 2011.

A copy of the selection criteria and duty statement for this position can be found on the ACA website www.croquetaustralia.com.au or by contacting the ACA National Office on 02 6257 0880.

Inter-Club Competition on the Mid North Coast

Players from Woolgoolga, Sawtell and South West Rocks travelled to Urunga recently for the first in a series of 4 Golf Croquet Inter Club matches. South West Rocks is one of the newer clubs affiliated with CNSW and this was their first ever inter club competition.

Four singles players and 2 doubles teams entered from each club – 36 games were played in the day. Although the focus is on fun and friendship there is a winner for the day. With the last round of doubles games to be played Woolgoolga and Sawtell were level on games and they were to play each other. The players involved were not aware of the tight games score. Sawtell managed to win both their games and so ran out winners for the day. Urunga and South West Rocks won one game each. Final score – Sawtell 12 games – Woolgoolga and Urunga 9 games each and South West Rocks 6 games.

There are 3 more matches to be played in this series; the next will be at Sawtell in June, then Woolgoolga in July and South West Rocks in September.



*Jenny Arnold
Sawtell*

Newsletter is sponsored by the NSW Department of Sport & Recreation



A New Clubhouse for Alstonville

On 8 May Alstonville Croquet Club had a special day of presentations and the opening of the new club house. Members of the Club brought along an array of homemade cakes, biscuits, sandwiches and an urn of tea was prepared.

The presentation of the Champion Player of Golf Croquet was arranged by Kevin Olivieri. Richard Rowland who has just joined the club and is a newcomer to croquet, was the winner of the competition and Marilyn Miller the runner up. One hit by Richard saw the croquet ball travel 22 metres to rest on the arch! His natural talents came from a background in cricket where he played in Sydney for the Waverley Cricket Club (now Easts) and a season in England, as a professional and club cricketer for Finchley (North London club). The pair received beautiful trophies arranged by Kevin Olivieri and hearty congratulations from all the club members. Photographs of the day were taken and then the opening of the new Club House was carried out and three cheers were heard as the plaque was unveiled.

The project to build the club house was organised by the local Ballina Council who arranged for Nortec (a government initiative to promote young people getting into the workforce) to provide materials and labour. The President, Jo Walsh, was in constant touch with the Nortec project manager with ideas about the requirements for the club. According to Jo, the young fellows worked diligently till they had finished the project, which was a wooden framed structure with tin panels, a concrete floor, a bench for the sign-on book and play day money collections, and a noticeboard area. The previous housing for the players was a small bus shed which was torn down and replaced by the project structure. A member, Gloria Turnbull, donated a plaque with the inscription "Yarrahappini" which is an aboriginal name for "Happy Place".

So as from now, all the members can fit in the new club structure and enjoy a cup of tea together at the half way break on play day



Winner & runner-up of Golf Croquet Championship holding trophies with other club members in attendance

Richard Rowland

South Coast Shield

The South Coast Shield 2011 was played at the Narooma croquet club located at the Dalmeny Bowling club on Friday - Saturday, 27-28 May. Six clubs were represented with Teams from Nowra, Southern Highlands, Milton Ulladulla, Wollongong, Bermagui and Narooma competing for the trophy. The South coast shield is played for annually and is the only croquet tournament played as a team event. With six players to each team, this creates a much different atmosphere to other tournaments which are run for individual players.

The hospitality of the host club is second to none with home made cakes scones, pikelets and tea and coffee available to the players throughout the tournament and five different varieties of home made soup for lunch on Friday and a delicious BBQ lunch on the Saturday before the presentation of the trophies.

The winners of the shield this year were first time participants, the Southern Highlands team of Kerry and Murray Loane, Sandy Alsop, Ian mailing, Pam Cleary from Southern Highlands club and Melva Horsington from Narooma.

The runners up were the Milton Ulladulla team of Roy and Kay Bryant, Jim and Jude Elston and Moya Flynn with Christine Stent borrowed from Narooma.

Golf croquet was included in the tournament for the first time this year and the organizers did an excellent job giving each team a total of fourteen games. A most enjoyable weekend was had by all present. The Nowra team were not successful in winning the shield but Graham Cullen, Judith Ramadge and Keith Poynter all won prizes in the raffle.



The runners up Milton Ulladulla team (from left to right): Jude Elston, Moya Flynn, Jim Elston, Christine Stent, Roy and Kay Bryant



*The winning team from Southern Highlands:
Murray Loane, Pam Cleary, Melva Horsington (loaned from Narooma) and Kerry Loane
Absent : Sandy Alsop and Ian Mailing*

The Nowra team Margaret Sawers, Pat and Keith



Poynter, Judith Ramadge, Fay Lochrin and Graham Cullen

*Margaret Sawers
Publicity Officer*



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SAWTELL – 4 Days of Golf Croquet

Well, we nearly did it again- after cancelling last year due to 4 days of rain, we were all set for 4 days of Golf Croquet. 50 ml of rain overnight - we arrived ready to set up for Day 1 to find big puddles on both courts. All our visitors arrived – the sun was shining, but the courts were too wet. So we went to Plan B – offered some card/board games. Some played games, others spent the time socialising and making new friends. Our visitors this year included Neville and Marg Pope from Horsham in Victoria – they were late entries, but filled in for some last minute cancellations due to ill health. We were also pleased to welcome Gary Barenthien and John Ball from South West Rocks in their first ever carnival event – SWR being one of the newer clubs in CNSW – watch out for these boys.



About mid-morning it was decided to abandon the Doubles Event – however Court 2 was dry enough, so we set up hoops for some social play followed by a “Soup and Sandwich lunch”. A happy day nevertheless. Day 2 dawned overcast; however the courts were dry enough to get the Singles event started. We got through 24 games before the heavens opened again and the courts resembled the Sawtell Swimming Pool – no play that afternoon. Day 3 – we were back to our usual “Sunny Sawtell”. The courts were soft, but dry and we made up for it by playing 44 games that day. Day 4 – Saturday again a picture perfect day. All games were completed by the scheduled time and our 4 days of Golf Croquet wrapped up with a few nibbles and a drink and presentation to the winners:

- Block A:** Neville Pope
- Block B:** Sylvia Andrews
- Block C:** Margaret Pope
- Block D:** Ron Lewis
- Block E:** Jenny Haskins



Jenny Arnold

News from Lismore Croquet Club

Thursday 17th March (St Patrick’s Day) was celebrated in style by Lismore Croquet Club members and “the wearing of the green” was evident, as was green cakes, sandwiches and cordial served up for morning tea. It was a true celebration of our Irish heritage – even down to the Blarney Stone we borrowed for the day.

Thursday 26th May saw us celebrate Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea in crazy style, with a myriad of players dressed in blue and yellow, plus there was a Mad Hatter in attendance. I think he left Alice at home that day! We had plenty of games of golf croquet, side games and lucky door prizes finished off with a most delicious morning tea. Lismore can boast lots of good cooks amongst their membership.

For some years now, there has been a division between golf croquet players and association players, but our Club Captain, Fay Ross, has worked extremely hard to bridge that gap and we now know we all belong to the one club. Congratulations Fay.



Celebrating St Patrick’s Day



Our Biggest Morning Tea

Marion Underhill

“Mad Dogs” And Croquet Players at The Newcastle National Park Golf Croquet Doubles Tournament

Only ‘mad dogs’ and croquet players would have gone out on the June long weekend in Newcastle, and probably the dogs had more sense. We actually wondered if the (now renamed) Pasha Bulka might have run aground on Nobby’s beach bringing a 2011 déjà vu to the 2007 storm that saw our Clubhouse flooded to a depth of half a metre. The local media announced that all sport in Newcastle had been cancelled except for “dirt bike” championships, but obviously they hadn’t heard about sixty-four mature-aged nutters - us.

It was extremely difficult to tell which Clubs were represented as Club colours became a guessing competition. Raincoats were de rigueur and many a spectacle they presented. Ron Bell from the Mt. Sugarloaf Club was wearing something that was red and white vertically striped one day, the next he was in something similarly striped in blue and white (just to keep us guessing). Chris Pont and Pam Ingham played in gumboots on the Sunday and Lesley Joass from Macquarie City could not be missed on the Monday – her bright red raincoat and yellow gumboots providing a stark contrast to the green lawns.

To say it rained would be the understatement of the year. It absolutely poured. We pride ourselves at Newcastle on our sand-based lawns which rarely show any signs of flooding, but lawn 1 on the Sunday was suitable for some sort of water sport. This meant that our Tournament Managers, Elaine McDiarmid and Jenny Ferris, were faced with having to get all games played on only three out of four lawns. Peter Smith (Maitland) was going to get his fishing gear out of his car to see if there “were any flathead around.”

Graham Dark (Dungog) nearly had a run-in with our resident spur-winged plovers who again took exception to anyone collecting a wayward ball somewhere near where they were nesting behind Lawn 3. They were not happy, and we don’t think it was because of the weather! Just remember to keep ducking, Graham!

Nevertheless, despite everything that Mother Nature could throw against us we persevered and all games were completed.

Players came from as far afield as the Blue Mountains, Canberra, Cheltenham, Jamberoo, Manly, Mosman, Orange, Tamworth and Wollongong as well as from surrounding Hunter Clubs like Maitland, Macquarie City, Toronto, Dungog, Mt. Sugarloaf and our own Newcastle Club.

The wet weather made indoors a ‘must’ when you weren’t playing and food was consumed at a great rate. Thanks to Dorothy Croese, Jan Hull, Judy Squelch and their bunch of willing assistants for keeping the urn boiling and the goodies table so well stocked. And, we should not forget

to thank the workers who braved the early morning cold and wet each day to set up the lawns.

Newcastle City Council was again our major sponsor for this event and we sincerely and gratefully acknowledge its ongoing support. Four groups were played with the winners picking up \$50 each for their skill, as well as a pick from our prize table. We thank President Christine for her efforts in this latter regard. The runners-up each received \$25 with CNSW President, John Compton (Maitland) making the presentations.

The winners of the four groups were as follows:

- A: John Levick (Newcastle) & Steve Harden (Tamworth)**
- B: Graham Dark (Dungog) & Bob Nelson (Maitland)**
- C: Ron Bell & Brenda Wild (both Mt. Sugarloaf)**
- D: Warren King & Julie King (both Toronto)**

Despite the best attempts of the weather, it was a highly successful and interesting tournament and I know that nearly all of the players will be back next year for another attempt!

We just hope we can improve on the weather!!!!!!



Brenda

Wild

& Ron Bell were well pleased with their win

Pam Ingham



Life Member Pat Purse, Club Patron Michael Driscoll and Founding Member Marie Patmore cutting the 25th Anniversary cake at Urunga’s celebrations.

Story on next page.

June in Urunga

What a month June 2011 was for the Urunga Croquet Club. It started as a wet and windy couple of days and our players who travelled to Sawtell for their Golf Croquet Carnival returned home the first two days with little or no play as their lawns were completely under water, while ours were still playable.

Next we had our 25th Anniversary celebrations held over the Queen's Birthday weekend. We played an Egyptian for the Association players and had two Blocks of Golf Croquet players. Play on the Saturday was in almost perfect conditions and so excellent croquet was played in a relaxed friendly atmosphere. Things only improved at the dinner on the Saturday night as a number of past members, including our Founding Member and a Life Member, were on hand for an evening to remember. Guests were on the dance floor early in the night and were still dancing the night away long after normal croquet dinners would have ended. Play the next day had a few sore heads early before the 'Weather Gods' decided we had had enough and once again the rain came and one half lawn went completely under water. Everyone agreed they had had enough croquet and winners were determined on the games completed.

We had three players share the Egyptian, Jan Sage from Taree, Rosemary Stillman from Sawtell and Judy Pedlow from Ringwood, Victoria. In the Golf Croquet, Block A winners were Debbie Anderson and Barb Piggott from Urunga and Block B Jacky Martyn and Derrick Burrows from Sawtell.

Taking advantage of having the SDR in the area we had planned an Association Referee Refresher Workshop for the Monday. Unfortunately due to the persistent rain we were forced indoors for the workshop, but the 10 players who attended got a lot out of the morning as a number of topics were still able to be covered. The rain kept coming for the next two days, 450 mls or 18 inches in the old scale fell in Urunga from Sunday to Wednesday night putting one corner of one lawn completely under water for the four days. It also closed the Pacific Highway in a number of places south of Urunga and players entered in our Association Carnival due to start on Saturday 18 June were wondering how they would get here. Some were forced to withdraw but others kept the hope alive of coming as soon as the highway opened.

Play started on the Saturday in sunshine with an Egyptian as 16 players were already north of the road closures. A couple who were staying at the caravan park came to watch on the Saturday and were quickly signed up for the singles to replace players who were forced to withdraw – a big thank you to Lyn and John Norwood from Rich River for helping us out and we hope they enjoyed their experience at Urunga.

As a number of players were still not available for the singles, a quick change of plans and doubles were played on the Sunday. Not sure of the official count of the

number of times the draw changed as players swapped Blocks when others dropped out. It was not finalised until late on the Monday when the last player arrived and their game was rescheduled for the Wednesday, when all games were finally over with results as follows:

Egyptian

Winner: Bert Willis (Sawtell)

Runner Up: John Piggott (Urunga)

Doubles Winners

Block A: Graeme Morrison (Village Glen, Vic) and John Piggott (Urunga)

Block B: Jean Lieschke (Albury) and Barb Piggott (Urunga)

Singles Winners

Block A: Bev Oldfield (Urunga)

Block B: Jacky McDonald (Maitland)

Block C: Tom Maginnity (Sawtell)

Block D: John Piggott (Urunga)

A big thank you to Club members who helped out over the two competitions, especially John Piggott and Brian Oldfield who set the lawns each morning, Joan Hickey and Pat Gossip and their band of helpers in the kitchen. A special thank you to Danny our Green Keeper for the excellent condition of the lawns despite the adverse weather conditions he was forced to work under. Finally, I would like to say what a difference it makes to have a computer program that does all the work to enable the draw to be changed so often – a simple change on one page is then reflected everywhere, without it I don't believe we would have had such a successful carnival and I would not have got a lot of sleep. I thank the players for their understanding on not being able to give them playing times more than one day in advance for the first three days, and for those players determined to make it to Urunga to compete and hope you are just as keen to return next year.

Graeme Morrison from Victoria in action during the Association Carnival



Players share a joke at the presentations

*Barb Piggott
Captain*

Wollongong Croquet Club

Late June six members of our Club - Olga Hough, Rayna Murray, Jeanette Testoni, Doulgas Woods, Bill and Betty Muller - travelled down to Narooma to play in the South Coast Shield Competition. We had perfect weather and a most enjoyable break. It is certainly very challenging playing Croquet on Bowling Greens.

Our Club Handicap Doubles were played recently. The Winners were:- Robyn Wilson & Julie Jewell from Nance Moering & Graeme Jewell (7 - 6).

One June 30 and July 1 our Club played host to Bev and Peter Smith and Jacky and Geof McDonald for a Coaching Clinic. Thursday 30 was for Association players, with 7 attending, and Friday was for Golf Players and 36 attended. We had visitors from Jamberoo, Southern Highlands, Nowra, Narooma and Port Hacking. The sessions were most informative and a great help to all who attended.

During 'the winds' in the first week of July we unfortunately lost the whole of our roof from the Clubhouse. We were in the process of having our Storeroom/Clubhouse updated and are now working out where to go from here with Insurances etc. Luckily our roof ended up on the roof of the Bowling Club next door and the edge of one green. Not too much damage to their green. We are making do in our open air Clubhouse but it is difficult in this cold weather.



Bev Smith providing advice—can you guess which rule it might have been?



Three cheers for the SES as they help to restore the clubhouse roof!

*Betty Muller
Publicity Officer*

Dubbo Croquet Club

Whilst there were no new members to welcome during the last quarter ... we nearly got one. Unfortunately he is still a bit young, although he *is* interested!? Here's Erik (Ben Vang's grandson) visiting the club over Easter and having a quick game. He had only just had his 1st birthday so it will probably be another year before he signs up!?



Extract from Dubbo Club's Newsletter,
edited by Ben Vang

Oalé

Rita Johnson—who died mid-July. Rita was a member of Maitland and Newcastle clubs, and, as those who played in competitions at Tempe would know, she was invaluable in her work in managing tournaments, travelling each day from Newcastle. We have missed her since her illness, and deeply regret her passing.

Our sympathy is extended to Rita's family and friends.

☪☪☪

Municipality of Hunters Hill Sesquicentenary 1861-2011



The Hunters Hill Croquet Club is celebrating the Sesquicentenary of the Municipality of Hunters Hill with an Open Day on Saturday, September 17, 2011.

It is very fitting that we should as Croquet players celebrate this occasion. As a number of literary references and historical documents attest, Croquet was THE game to be seen playing if you were anyone in the Social World of the 1860's. It probably reached its zenith in 1868 with the establishment of the All England Croquet Club (AECC) at Wimbledon. Although croquet was probably introduced to England earlier than this, about 1851, it was the codification of the Rules by the AECC that set Croquet on the path which we now follow. Unfortunately, a lawn was set aside at Wimbledon in 1875 for the introduction of a game called "Sphairistike", later to be known as Lawn Tennis, and the rising popularity of that game, led to a change of name of the AECC to The All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club. In 1882, the name of the club was changed again to The All England Lawn Tennis Club, but sentimentality won the day and in 1889 Croquet was restored to the title and remains there to this day.

Hunters Hill Croquet Club was going to celebrate the Sesquicentenary by inviting the Queen of Hearts to play an exhibition match on our Lawn but when she found she would have to play with a sacred ibis rather than a flamingo for a mallet, and that echidnas were to replace hedgehogs, she turned down our invitation. We are still hoping that there will be some visitors who turn up in crinolines and who will employ their "sumptuous skirts" sweeping the ball towards the hoop.

The history of our local club certainly does not go back to the time when the Municipality was established, but we can be fairly certain that there would have been croquet lawns in the gardens of some of the old stone houses of Hunters Hill. Rachel Henning, who came to Australia from England in 1854, writes in 1871 that her brother had played croquet on the lawn of Canterbury House, in the nearby suburb of Ashfield with his future wife, and the game had ended with their engagement. Unfortunately the current demographic of croquet players makes it unlikely we can repeat this on our Open Day.

However, it was important that in the 1860's croquet did

allow men and women to play together in the open air in a game that was both social and competitive, and there are many references in novels of that period, not only "Alice in Wonderland", which point to its popularity as a social game.



While women no longer lift their skirts to place a foot upon her ball in a croquet stroke, it was for the Victorians a daring thing to do, and many a man's game was disrupted by the sight. At our Open Day we don't expect this to happen, the Rules having been changed to prevent such provocation.

But we would like to invite Visitors to join us in the celebration of 150 years of Croquet and Hinters Hill from 10.30 am on. We will be providing morning tea including, of course, cucumber sandwiches, and a barbeque lunch, all for a modest \$10/person.

Please let our Secretary, Janice Lee, (phone 9475 6309) know if you intend coming.

David Lonie

Wollongong Croquet Club

You may recall a report from the Wollongong Croquet Club in the June issue of this *Newsletter*. Mention was made of refurbishments to our building and how "All members are looking forward to having a little more weather protection and comfort." To bring all our croquet friends across the state up to date, building work was well and truly underway. Walls bricked in, with new aluminium windows and sliding doors in position. Although not quite complete, our members were starting to reap the benefits of the new work, by taking shelter from the cold winds. Unfortunately, 'Windy Wollongong' lived up to its reputation. Gale force winds in early July ripped the roof off and caused major damage to the nearly completed building. This has resulted in our members being literally 'left out in the cold' and feeling very despondent. Our President, Chris Christopher, is now spending more time consulting with insurance representatives, builders and engineers, than playing croquet. Future events, such as the Club hosting Keira High School in early September are now in jeopardy, owing to OH&S issues.

Hopefully the next report in this *Newsletter* will have a happier ending.

Graeme Jewell
Publicity Officer

Port Macquarie Croquet Club 2011 Association Croquet Carnival

From 25 to 29 July, the Port Macquarie Croquet Club held its 56th consecutive annual carnival, at their Buller Street courts. After a week of wild, wet weather we were blessed with perfect sunny weather for the carnival. The 24 competitors were in the four blocks of 6 players. They were from Albury, Ballina, Forster, Independent, Jamberoo, Killara, Maitland, Mosman, Port Macquarie, Sawtell and Toronto.

On the first day, an Individual Doubles competition was held. In this event, each player plays with four different partners and against eight different opponents. The winners were:

1st: Robert Leese (Sawtell); 2nd: Barbara McTiernan (Forster); 3rd: Trevor Black (Maitland).

The results of the four day Round Robin were:

Block A: Barbara McTiernan (Forster);
Runner-up: John Deeves (Jamberoo)

Block B: Peter Smith (Maitland);
Runner-up: Jean Lieschke (Albury)

Block C: Margaret Pulsford (Individual)
Runner-up: Rob Leese (Sawtell)

Block D: Ellen Puxty-Johansen (Sawtell)
Runner-up: Glen Coulton (Toronto)

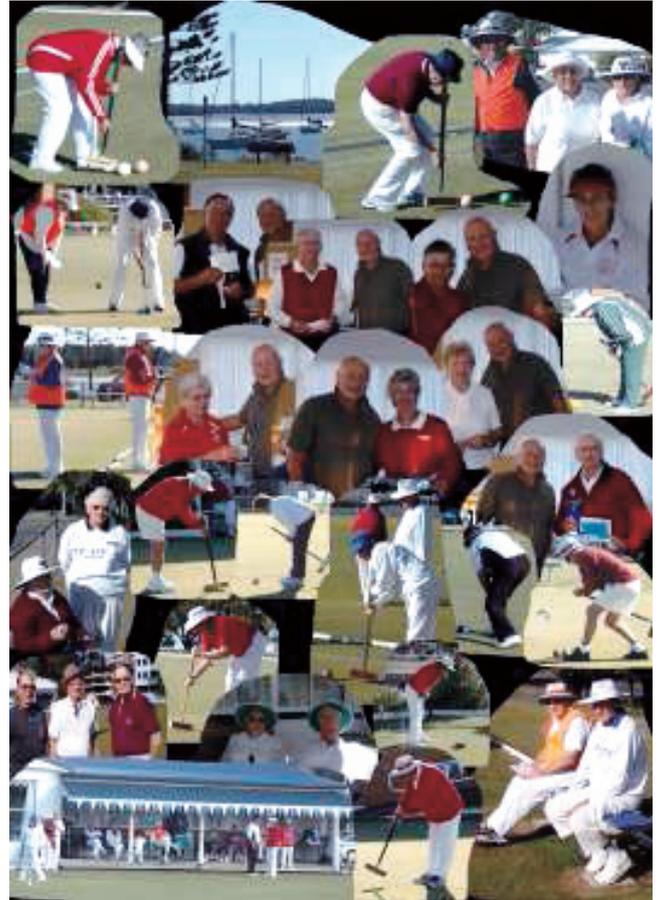
The star of the carnival was Barbara McTiernan who pegged out in her five games in her charming, relaxed style.

The referees, under the watchful eye of Tournament Referee, Jim Hicks, were Carol Armstrong, Jenny Arnold, Kurt Beck, Trevor Black, John Deeves, Pam Durie, Bridget Earle, Tony Earle, Eric Gadd, Pat Goldrick, Alan Gray, Margaret Gray, Margaret Leese, Rob Leese, Jean Lieschke, Archie McCulloch, Barb McTiernan, Sue Moss, Thyra Neilson, Ellen Puxty-Johansen, Jan Serotzki, Ray Vize and John Watson.

Bridget Earle
Tournament Manager



Margaret (centre front) kept the balls moving at Nelson Bay's celebratory BBQ



Obviously, it was a fun time at Port Macquarie!

Nelson Bay Club

Nelson Bay Croquet Club members celebrated the third year in their new premises with a birthday BBQ and lots of skill games spread over their two lawns. We had visitors from Dungog, Newcastle National Park and Maitland Croquet Clubs. We felt very honoured to have the President of Croquet Australia attend - we know how busy Robyn Wallace is with all her commitments around the states. Thank you Robyn.

A great day was had by all.



Margaret Thompson
Games Captain

Weather fails to dampen spirits at the inaugural Blue Mountains Gateball Competition

30 gateball players from 7 croquet clubs ranging from Nowra, Maitland, Hazelbrook, Epping, Mt Sugarloaf, Canberra and the Blue Mountains braved the cold damp conditions of the Blackheath lawn to contest the inaugural Blue Mountains gateball competition on 16 - 17 July. Players were grouped into 5 mixed teams, four of which were captained by experienced Canberra players who had made the trip to share their expertise with players new to the game. A mixed team composed of Blue Mountains and Canberra players carried off the trophy in a closely fought contest.

The competition has given many new players the confidence, and a few more skills, to enter the Australian Gateball Championships in September in Newcastle. During the previous week the Blue Mountains Club's new shed was flattened by the storms that hit the Upper Mountains hard. Local life had been disrupted with one member still not back in her home as a tree fell across her house. Club member, Betty Gledhill, saved the day by offering the use of a large downstairs room. The log fire in the corner of the room, hot soups and mountain pies recharged batteries for the quick paced games.

The local MLA joined players for lunch on the Saturday which provided Club President, Jim Mills, with the opportunity to show the devastation caused by the recent strong winds.

Mountains players were delighted with the success of the event and have resolved to hold another such event in 2012 as part of what, we hope, will be an expanding repertoire of NSW gateball events



Recognise the man in the Beanie?

Of course, it is our erstwhile hard working GC referee, Bill Haines.



Game in progress



Photographed below was State Member Roza Sage, trying her hand at gateball. Watching on are Maggi Williams and Wendy Callaghan (from Blue Mountains CC) and Alex Park (Canberra CC and NSW State Director of Gateball). Roza joined players for lunch on Saturday. President, Jim Mills, was able to show her the devastation caused by recent strong winds.



This photo and text in paragraph above appeared in the Blue Mountains Gazette



Part of the damaged Clubhouse

John Park



BERYL CHAMBERS FINAL

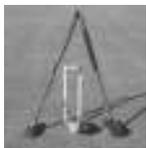
This event is the State Handicap Championship for the Beryl Chambers Memorial Trophy and started with 51 competitors playing in a number of regions and clubs in NSW during April and May. Four country regions participated together with players from a number of Sydney clubs.

The tournament committee thanks the coordinators who organized the players and games so well. The 10 players who won their regional events played in the final at Tempe HQ over the weekend of June 9 to June 13. Handicaps in the final covered a wide range from 0 to 16.

The weather started well on the Thursday but as in most recent years got progressively worse. Showers, rain and cold winds which persisted off and on for the remaining 4 days did not make the conditions pleasant for playing. As should happen in handicap games many were close with the players with bisques using them to get in front and hoping the lower handicap player would not get in and make breaks. Game 1 was typical: Pat Gilchrist used all her bisques to lead 23-3, John Read roqueted and went to the peg for 23-15, Pat missed, John started a break with the second ball just before time was called. John over rolled hoop 2 back, and Pat had held on to win. Many games progressed this way and a number of the low handicap players ran down substantial leads by their opponents, several finishing after time had been called.

Alix Verge, being the lowest handicapper off 0, had to concede bisques in every game; a total of 90 bisques in the 9 games of the competition. Despite this she played very well with long breaks that were interesting to watch and won five games finishing fifth overall. With bisques leveling out games as they are intended to, seven of the players won 4 games or more. The most consistent overall was Trevor Black from Maitland Club off a handicap of 4 defending his title from 2010. Trevor won 8 games out of 9 despite giving away bisques in all but two, and won the competition again. As one of the higher handicapped players, Pat Gilchrist played well to win 7 games and finish runner up. David Stanton was third. With a platinum player winning this year, all divisions from platinum to bronze have now won the event since it was played in the regional format.

This event is open to all association croquet players in the state, with regional events being held in clubs or areas to determine the finalists. It would be good to see more players in more clubs, particularly in the country, participate next year. Country players who play in the final receive a subsidy towards the costs of coming to Sydney. Keep a lookout for next year's announcement and join in.



*John Eddes
Manager*

CHAMPION OF CLUB CHAMPIONS.

This years Champions event had the representatives of 13 clubs participate: 9 from Sydney and 4 from the country. It is disappointing that more clubs, particularly country clubs with strong association players do not enter their club champion in this event. For the first time that anyone can remember 4 clubs were represented by women players and three were seeded in the top 8. More about this later.

The event was played in two blocks with four players to proceed to the knockout stage. Each block had four players with much higher rankings than the others and so it worked out, but only just. The fourth qualifier in each block only just scraped through on a net points count back. In the block stage Jim Nichols was undefeated in one block and Alison Sharpe won the other block with one loss. Triples were completed by Alix Verge, Alan Walsh, John Levick (2) and Alison Sharpe.

As you would expect with so many even players (eight were on handicaps of zero or less) there were some very close games and some nail biting finishes, none more so than the impasse that occurred in the game between Jim Nicholls and Alix Verge. Most players had never seen an impasse and we had to look up the regulations on how to handle it. An impasse is really a stalemate with nothing much changing after each stroke. The position was that Alix was on peg and four back, Jim was on penultimate and in play with a break for the other ball. Jim took his break to the peg but on the way was forced to peel Alix through four back so both player's back balls are on penultimate. As time had been called Jim pegged out his forward ball putting him one in front. Alix hit the lift shot with the peg ball and pegged out making the score level and with only one ball each remaining. Alix put her other ball near to and slightly on the non playing side of penultimate. Jim played his only ball wide and slightly on the playing side of penultimate and with brilliant placement wired from Alix. So this started the impasse; neither player could hit the other and neither could get in front of the hoop without providing a short roquet to the opponent. So there they stayed hitting a few cms or less with each stroke and keeping the balls wired. After reading the ACA regulations an impasse was eventually declared. Alix considered this declaration was unfairly weighted against Jim so she broke the impasse, and Jim finally won the game.

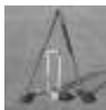
Two quarterfinals were easy wins to Jim (with a triple) and Alison; the other two saw tight finishes to Rosie Graham and Alix. Alix's win against Alan Honey deserves full commentary but it is too long to describe in detail. Alan was pegged out and 4 back (22 points) as time was about to be called. Alix was for 1 back and 4 back (15 points). She got her shot in just before time leaving her balls about 10 yards apart near one back. After Alan played into corner 4, Alix's remarkable break started: she hit the roquet, took off to one back from 8 yards on the non playing side, made it so well her ball ended up on the border near 2 back; she turned and roqueted the ball 18 yards away, rolled to the hoop, made it and finished the

break with some other amazing strokes, including putting her other ball right in front of 4 back in the same stroke as getting into position to peg out.

Thus the semi finals had three of the four places go to the women which shows the strength of the NSW women now. Both semi finals were reasonably easy victories: Jim beat Rosie with a triple and Alix beat Alison.

The best of three final was over all too quickly. Jim and Alix had both displayed excellent form during the previous games: Jim with easy wins and Alix with tough play. Jim won the first game with a triple peel 26-0 for his third consecutive game with that score in the finals. The second game saw Alix make a break but Jim finished with another triple to win 26 – 10.

There were strong performances by nearly all the players given their ranking and most would have been happy with their results. Jim was the standout player overall and fully deserved his victory, winning the four finals games by 104 – 10 with 4 triple peels. Alix was a worthy runner up and signaled her return to competitive association croquet at the top level.



John Eddes
Manager

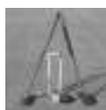
ACA GOLF CROQUET BRONZE MEDAL

We played the Bronze Medal in beautiful winter weather, crisp mornings and sunny days. This event demonstrated the excellent standard of many elite golf croquet players in NSW. Although the event should bring together the top 10 players in NSW, due to the commitments of some players the pool was taken from the top 16 or so players and still the standard was exceptionally high. Very few matches were won in straight games, with many games only being won 7/6 and all players had wins.

The Bronze Medal winner was Peter Landrebe with Rosie Graham runner up. Our congratulations to Peter and our best wishes to him when representing NSW in the Gold Medal event later in the year.

We would like to thank the players for their co-operation in the smooth running of the tournament, for their enthusiasm, competitiveness, and mateship. It was a pleasure to manage the tournament. Thanks also go to the referees who gave of their time, Robin Wallace who was here every day, Bill Haines, Wendy Fothergill, Jude Willmore, Ingrid Cohen & Margaret Sawers.

Ron & Ros Johnstone
Joint Managers



NSW Golf Croquet State Pennants 2011

Division One

Again entries were disappointing – only two teams entered. Maitland defeated Sutherland 2 matches to 0 on a wet and miserable Thursday on the Newcastle National Park Lawns. Representing Maitland was Trevor Black, Peter Smith, Barry Wells and Stephen Dilley (Jnr) with fine weather only reserves John Compton and Pam Gentle. Sutherland consisted of Ron and Ros Johnstone, John Eddes with Christine Pont making up the four.

Division Two

The Div 2 semis were played on Friday 22 July. The weather was testing with 2 lawns going underwater by noon, with a lake emerging slowly from corner 2 on lawn 3 and encroaching toward hoop 2. We stopped at one stage while the monsoon was at full blast and again for a lost container vessel wishing to ask directions to Port Botany. Animals were lining up in twos in the car park.

Prior to and during the deluge Sydney proved too strong for Maitland - must have webbed feet in the Eastern Suburbs. Sydney represented by Jack and Ingrid Cohen, Fay Stove and Kim Morrison won all matches over a Maitland team that struggled in the conditions. John Pace, Anne Freeman, Greg Freeman, Robyn Compton and Bev Smith will be determined to regain the shield for Maitland in 2012. This will be the first year that Maitland has not won the trophy.

Jamberoo edged out Eastwood 2 matches to 1, with Margie Long defeating Dorothy Pratt 7/6,7/4 and Ian Stubbi overcoming Pat Gilchrist 7/3,4/7,7/2. The doubles was won by the dynamic Eastwood duo of Greg Deakin and Shirley McLaughlan over Betty Ball and Gerry Hassett 4/7,7/4,7/6. I believe that some players enjoyed the day. I have to give thanks to the referees who also endured the conditions - and they volunteered. Well done to all players and referees - croquet people are tough not like other wussy sportspeople who call off their games when someone spits in the wind.

Unfortunately the final could not be played due to time and water. We are currently negotiating a new final date with the two clubs.

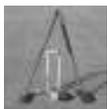
Division 3

A random draw saw Milton-Ulladulla pitted against Hurstville and Mosman to play Branxton. Milton-Ulladulla proved too strong winning all matches with George Timbs defeating Lorna Davies in 3, Maureen Greenwood overcoming Katherine Love in 2 and the doubles duo of George Emery and Jan Ruggiero defeating Ros Haupt and Pam Hofer in 2. Mosman dominated the match against Branxton with Marjorie Lehman/ Jenny Willis defeating Maureen Dick/Helen Enright in the doubles and Michael Strickland crushing Clare Clark in 2.

Contd. p. 14

The other singles was stopped at one game all between Ruth Harden and Richard Westgarth to enable time for the final to be completed on the day.

The final proved to be a nail-biter with the singles being shared between Milton-Ulladulla and Mosman. Michael Strickland (Mosman) again gave a dominant display against George Timbs winning 7/2,7/2. Maureen Greenwood (Milton-Ulladulla) was equally dominant disposing of Richard Westgarth 7/1,7/5. At this stage the doubles was one game apiece with Marjorie and Jenny (Mosman) winning the first 7/6 and George and Jan the second 7/3. When George and Jan ran away to a 4/2 lead in the third and both balls in dominant positions at 7 Milton-Ulladulla looked easy winners. Some brilliant defense at 7 saw the start of a remarkable comeback taking the game to the 13th hoop. Each side had an advantage at 13 with neither able to take advantage of position until Jan ran 13 from the back line to give Milton-Ulladulla the game 7/6, the match and the Division 3 title. Sometimes the brave and audacious shot takes the prize!



John Compton
GC Pennants Manager

NSW Women's Open 24-27 June

This year's competition again attracted players from interstate which always makes not only a competitive event, but a wonderful atmosphere among the players. Unfortunately the local showing was not so good and Pam Gentle of Maitland, Barb McTiernan of Forster and myself were the only entries from NSW. The other ladies were Rosemary Newsham from Stephens club in Brisbane and Anne Quinn and Wendy Dickson from Yarrawonga club in Victoria.

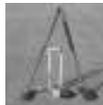
The event was a modified double round robin with everyone playing everyone in the first round, reseeded and then 4 sessions in the second round. This meant that the event could be finished in 3 days and we all got 9 games. The weather was absolutely glorious and the lawns were running at an easy 10.5, but the hoops were tight and firm in the ground which made the event a great challenge. Players were shooting well with lots of 3rd and 4th turn and lifts hit. Anne Quinn was involved in lots of battles and she beat me with a fabulous break after time on day one.

On day one, Pam and Rosemary Newsham were unable to claim a win but came out fighting on the next two days with 2 wins each. Barbara McTiernan was the surprise player of the event, coming in under the radar with her first big NSW event. Barbara is a great competitor; her sheer determination, a great roquet and fabulous two ball shots proved she is a player to watch in the future. Wendy Dickson who plays in the Victorian state team is always a strong opponent, and both our games were tough.

I was lucky to claim 8 out of 9 of my games and a win in the event, with Wendy second and Anne third.

Rosie Graham

(Printed with permission from the Cammeray Club Newsletter)



Gold Brooch August 1—5

Four contestant played a double round robin with results:

Winner: **John Eddes**
Runner-up: Barbara McTiernan

Silver Brooch August 8—11

Four contestant played a double round robin with results:

Winner: **Ron Humpherson**
Runner-up: David Stanton

Open Doubles August 13-14

Five teams played a round robin with results:

Winners: **Martyn Prins & Tony Hall (undefeated)**
Runners-up: Peter Landrebe & Rosemary Graham

Open Singles August 14-16

11 entrants were divided into 2 Blocks.

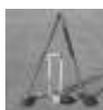
Block A:
Winner: Mike Hughes
Runner-up: Tony Hall

Block B:
Winner: Rosemary Graham
Runner-up: Alan Walsh

Round Robin Final:
Winner: Rosemary Graham
Runner-up: Mike Hughes

Third: Alan Walsh
Fourth: Tony Hall

Plate Winner: Neil Hartley



There were no Manager's reports for these events.

CNSW Internet Presence

Most organisations these days are finding that effective use of the Internet can provide better and faster communications for all members. Of course, although the CNSW Newsletter will continue to be used to inform what is happening in the world of croquet, the Internet can allow for two way communication and is considerably faster.

We are in the process of upgrading our Internet presence as follows:

Domain name:

We have been using *www.croquet-nsw.com* as the domain name for the organisation and, of course, this is the name you type in to access the website. To assist in the changeover we have decided to register a second domain name: *croquet-nsw.org* Either name will provide access to the web site but the .org suffix is more appropriate for a sporting organisation. (.com is normally the suffix for a commercial organisation)

Domain Hosting:

Our website needs to be 'hosted' on server computers which have high speed connection to the Internet. Our previous hosting organisation (TPG Internet) limited our expansion and was expensive and so we have transferred to GoDaddy to host both our web site and our e-mail mailboxes. GoDaddy can provide us with much more storage space at lower cost and this will allow our Webmaster, David Archer, to improve the CNSW web site. It will also allow David to integrate the Country Croquet web site with the main CNSW site. The Country Croquet web site was originally established by Geof McDonald (with David as the webmaster) and has been hosted by HunterLink (Hunterlink was taken over by Hong Kong based Pacnet some years ago)

Because the new hosting web site has far greater capacity than the old, it will be able to support more features in the future - perhaps some videos or on-line merchandising of croquet products.

E-Mail:

Croquet NSW previously had 3 email addresses:

office@croquet-nsw.com - used mainly used for communication with the Tempe HQ;

secretary@croquet-nsw.com - used by the Secretary;

mail@croquet-nsw.com - this was a 'catch-all' address which was used for communication regarding Membership Information, Insurance, Newsletter and other general queries.

Frequently there was evidence of confusion amongst correspondents as to which email to use. In order to make it clearer where to send e-mail, we have decided to expand the number of e-mail addresses and to name them more specifically.

The new e-mail addresses are:

president@croquet-nsw.org - for the President

secretary@croquet-nsw.org - for the Secretary

office@croquet-nsw.org - for communication with the Tempe HQ

membership@croquet-nsw.org - for membership and affiliation correspondence, as well as insurance matters

newsletter@croquet-nsw.org - correspondence related to the Newsletter

handicaps@croquet-nsw.org - information on handicaps

These new addresses are linked on the 'Contact' page on the main web site and once everyone gets used to them we intend to cancel the old ones.

The overall aim is to make contact between Croquet NSW and its members as simple, fast and as easy as possible.



Roger Evans

ASSOCIATION PENNANTS 2011

The Association Pennants for 2011 have been completed and by all accounts the competition was enjoyed by all competitors. The entry numbers were most disappointing with only the Silver and Bronze divisions being played. Only eight clubs were involved and all of these were from the metropolitan area. I am certain that Association is played in many other areas – what a pity we never see them!

In the Silver Division three clubs entered - Cammeray, Chatswood and Sutherland. A double round robin was played, resulting in Cammeray as the winner and Chatswood the runner up.

The Bronze Division, with club entries from Cammeray, Chatswood, Hurstville, Killara, Mosman and Manly, was much closer. Hurstville, Mosman and Manly all had four wins and it was only after the last games had been played that Mosman was declared the winner ahead of Hurstville.

Thank you to all clubs involved. The results were always sent in promptly and there was always some nice person to correct my mistakes. I hope you all learnt lots, improved lots and will be back bigger and better next year.

Jacky McDonald
Tournament Manager

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



Historic Meeting on a Croquet Lawn



This picture captures the moment Prince Philip met the Queen for the first time when she was just 13.

It is more than 70 years old and the quality grainy but the scene is incredibly significant in the history of our monarchy. For this is the first moment Princess Elizabeth met her future husband.

When King George VI visited Dartmouth College in 1939, a promising cadet called Philip was assigned to entertain his daughters. He obviously made a lasting impression on the 13-year-old Elizabeth. This extraordinary photograph, discovered in archives, shows the first meeting between the future Monarch and her husband-to-be, over a game of croquet.

The picture was unearthed while researching “Prince Philip At 90”, a documentary to mark his milestone birthday in June.

Thank you to Cammeray Club for giving permission to use this extract from their recent Newsletter and to David Stanton for his help. Just goes to show you never know who you might run into when you turn out for croquet!

Friendship Day at Sutherland

On Sunday 15 August, Sutherland Croquet Club held its annual Friendship Day and some very brave and drenched members from Jamberoo, Wollongong, Hurstville, Blue Mountains, Holroyd and EDSACC Clubs arrived in torrential rain. We plied them with hot tea, coffee and food and we all sat around relaxing, chatting and playing board games. Eventually the rain eased and we all hurried out to play.

There were skill games set up along the side of each lawn while waiting to play, and there was much fun, laughter and friendly rivalry. A barbecue lunch was served with many delicious “goodies” to follow, then back out to lay. We finished at 3pm and retired to present prizes and a farewell afternoon tea. In spite of such a wet beginning, it was a most enjoyable day.

We thank our own club members for all their hard work behind the scenes and we thank all those intrepid players who arrived and made the day such a happy success.

Croquet players are a great bunch of people!

*When the lawns are unavailable,,
there are always the board games!*

Anne Spencer



Milton Ulladulla Club Names Lawn after a pioneering member.

Members of Milton Ulladulla Croquet Club, at the recent AGM, voted to honour the club's major pioneer and founding member by naming the croquet lawn the Margaret Murray Croquet Lawn. Without Margaret's efforts it is doubtful that a croquet club would exist in Milton Ulladulla.

Margaret, who had formerly been a member of Tamworth Croquet club, began holding informal sessions of garden croquet in the 1990's for the benefit of the residents of the Sarah Claydon Retirement Village in Milton. In 1996 Margaret started teaching croquet as a U3A course on the little lawn at the Sarah Claydon Village, a quarter size lawn.

By 1999 the number of participants had grown significantly and they began to take seriously the idea of forming a club and securing a larger venue. Fundraising began in earnest and in May of that year a public meeting was held at Mollymook Bowling Club with 82 people in attendance. The meeting was used to gauge interest, to formally launch the club and to appoint its first committee. All without a place to play!

In August 1999, Milton-Ulladulla Bowling Club came to the rescue by offering the full-time use of a small bowling lawn which could accommodate a half-size croquet court. The fundraising efforts plus the new club grant from Croquet Australia meant that for the first time members were able to play with "proper" hoops, balls and mallets. By October 1999 the new club was well settled at the Bowlo and on the 29th of that month the club was officially opened by Colonel Tony Hall amid much celebration. Players came from several other clubs and Denis Faggoter and Graham Scott played a demonstration game to show the locals how the game was really played.

In 2005, the Bowling Club, planning a major upgrade, advised that the croquet lawn was needed as car parking space and the croquet club would have to leave. This prompted a flurry of activity. Every piece of open public land in the area was scrutinised, the other registered clubs were approached and Shoalhaven Council had a blowtorch put to it. Finally, in early 2006, after much negotiation, the club was invited to build a facility at the Showground in Milton. More flurries of activity as fundraising and applications for grants and loans were put into top gear. All in all \$80,000 had to be found and it was. In the hiatus between our leaving Ulladulla and the new court being ready we felt it important that members still be able to play somewhere or else we might lose them. A half-lawn was gerry rigged out of a small paddock at the Showground and for several months a form of bush croquet was played on it. We didn't lose a single

member during that time. Finally, on October 19, 2006 our new venue, with a redundant Holiday Haven cabin as our clubhouse, was officially opened by the then Mayor of Shoalhaven City, Councillor Greg Watson.

Margaret had been a prime mover in bringing the club about, first at the Sarah Claydon Village and then at the Milton Ulladulla Bowling Club. She continued to be a prime mover in pursuing fundraising activities to establish the new lawn at Milton Showground in 2006.

Sadly, Margaret had suffered a serious injury in September 1999 whilst holidaying in Queensland such that she has been prevented from playing croquet ever since. It is an irony that while she had done so much to bring the Club about and so much to keep it going, she has not been able to play croquet in all the time it has officially been a club. Nonetheless, she continues to maintain a keen interest in the club, its activities and its achievements. We are all grateful for her pioneering work that brought the sport of croquet to our district. We are pleased to now call our lawn the Margaret Murray Croquet Lawn.



Enjoying play on the Margaret Mary Lawn



Members lunching outside the Clubhouse

*Jim Elston
Club Captain*

Urunga Croquet Club

5th Annual Golf Croquet Carnival

17-18 August 2011

Blue skies and sunshine welcomed 35 visiting players to Urunga for their 5th Annual Golf Croquet held 17 – 18 August, although it didn't last for the three days. Of the 35 players, three were playing at Urunga for the first time and it was great to greet new faces and equally pleasing to renew friendships with many players who have regularly enjoyed the event. We started the event celebrating Gay Stump's birthday, where she became a member of the "OBE Club"; it is great to see that age is no barrier to playing competitively.

The Tournament Manager Barb Piggott, who doubled as Tournament Referee and Handicapper, was helped by many Club members including Ruth Nicholson, Carnival Secretary, Joan Hickey and her helpers in the kitchen, John Piggott who set the lawns up each morning and the gallant band of referees from both Urunga and the visiting clubs, who were in charge of 90 singles matches. Once again we had a mentoring program for would be referees and this again proved popular with players yet to gain their qualification. Thanks also to Jenny Arnold and Ellen Puxty Johansen from Sawtell who also lent a hand with Refereeing.

We would also like to thank our sponsor for this event, Coffs Ex-Services Memorial and Sporting Club Ltd for their continued support of our carnivals. C.ex Urunga Manager attended on the last day to watch a game and was entertained with some brilliant shots from "Jumping Joe" Dimech, and he could see that everyone was enjoying the hospitality, weather and friendship, but I believe he left none the wiser on how to play the game.

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 scrumptious lunches, the carnival dinner on the Thursday night and finger food during the presentations on the Friday.

We had a keenly contested competition with us having to revert to nett score on most occasions to separate either the winner or runner up. In one doubles Block nett score could not separate two teams so we had to take the winner of the game to determine a winner. Congratulations to Joe Dimech from Taree, and Dianne Cheetham from Maitland who won all five singles games.

Many complimentary remarks were made about the running of the Carnival with players eager to return next year. If you have not been to Urunga on the Mid North Coast you may like to consider next year, although get your entries in early as we can only accept 36 players.

Barb Piggott
Captain

Photos and Results from Urunga's Carnival



Play in progress - John Compton lines up to make a hoop



Preparing for battle: Lorraine Craig (Macquarie City) & Terry Cheetham (Maitland) against Yvonne Bagnall (Gloucester) & Sally Phillips (Macquarie City)



*Winners Block A
Doubles: Pam Faber
(Macquarie City) &
Sylvia Andrews (Port
Macquarie)*

Other Doubles Winners:

Block B: Ray Vize (Forster) & Sandra Johnson (Macquarie City)

Block C: Bridget Earle (Pt Macquarie) & Clare Vize (Forster)

Block D: John Hincks Pt Macquarie) & Lesley Joass (Mt Sugarloaf)

Singles Winners:

Block A: Joe Dimech (Taree)

Block B: Graham Innocent (Dubbo)

Block C: Dianne Cheetham (Maitland)

Block D: Yvonne Fisher (Gloucester)

Block E: Robyn Compton (Maitland)

Block F: Lyn Reardon (Macquarie City)

REFEREE / UMPIRE Re-Accreditation System

The Referee's Committee for some time has been working on a system to re-accredit Referees / Umpires in a similar way to how Coaches have to re-accredit. Why you ask yourself – the answer is simple – to ensure that all Referees / Umpires are up to date in the Rules / Laws of the game.

Currently there are two pages of qualified Referees / Umpires listed in the Year Book, yet we continue to struggle to find Referees for CNSW and ACA events. Most are reluctant to assist as they have not really put their qualification to use since their exam. We are introducing a 'use it or lose it' policy to ensure Referees / Umpires stay up to date in the Rules / Laws and active as officials in our sport.

The system is simple, all listed Umpires and Referees should receive a Referees Re-Accreditation Card with this Newsletter. The card is similar to your handicap card and you fill it in whenever you referee at an event or attend a workshop. Points will be accrued depending on the event and you have to obtain a certain number of points in a two year period depending on your qualification to re-accredit. So as not to disadvantage those players who have already volunteered their time to assist at CNSW events in 2011, the starting date for the system is 1 January 2011 and you have until 30 June 2013 to obtain sufficient points to retain your qualification. After this it reverts back to a two year time frame to re-accredit.

A list of active referees has been compiled, and you will be contacted shortly before reaccreditation is due. If you have been very busy and have more points than required, well done, but extra points do not carry over to the next period.

Entries on the card can be signed by club captain, an events manager, TR, VR, workshop organiser, etc. Reaccreditation will be authorised by SDR or GC Co-Ord. If you do not have sufficient points – but at least 75% of what is required - you may present for a short, modified, practical and Laws/Rules exam to reaccredit and remain on the active referees list. There is no waiver of points for Examining Referees.

All new Referees / Umpires will be forwarded their card with their badge and will have two years to gain their points to retain their qualification.

If you have not received a card please contact the SDR (Jan Sage) or GC Co-Ord (Barb Piggott) and a card will be forwarded. Also if you would like to opt out of the system as you no longer require your qualification please inform the SDR or GC Co-Ord to have your name removed from our files.

*Jan Sage, SDR
Barb Piggott, GC Coordinator
CNSW Referees Committee*

Note from President, John Compton: "The title of this scheme may need to change as a result of the meeting of SDRs to be held in Brisbane in August. An Australian Accreditation Scheme will be presented at that meeting. If you still have problems with this scheme regardless of title please contact Jan Sage with your concerns."

Off With Their Heads!

Lismore Croquet Club was host club to other clubs throughout the Northern Rivers district for our annual Friendship Day on 21 August. This year's day took on a different format, with an Alice in Wonderland theme. Alice and the Mad Hatter, our two Vice Captains, put their heads together in an effort to vamp up the theme and the side games, which they felt were becoming a little tired.

We had flamingos on the lawn, with a little hedgehog watching all the frivolity. Large playing cards were painted and used as croquet hoops, and scattered throughout the garden. White rabbits and Mad Hatters and people in strange, large bow ties were laughing as they joined in the fun. Lunchtime saw the cutting of a Merry Unbirthday cake, which was shared around.



There was positive feedback from the other attending clubs. They were impressed with the atmosphere and the concept, which went over very well.



Marion Underhill

Strathfield Croquet Club

Strathfield Croquet Club is now going through a consolidation process. As most readers would be aware, we had a rapid expansion of members over the past 12 months. Our community 'Come and Try sessions' were very successful. The ages of participants ranged from 13 to 85 years. It is interesting to examine our member profile. The male (8)-female(32) ratio has increased and that trend continues. We will soon have over 40 members. Players come from a variety of Municipal council areas: Strathfield (16); CCBC (15); Other (9). New players are taught Ricochet, and Golf Croquet, and introduced to Association Croquet. The latter game is remaining popular in our Club, but the majority of Club Members can play all games. It is pleasing to now have four Introductory Coaches in our Club. Heather Smallbone is a great asset, as many of our new members are also proving to be. They keep surprising me with their other talents that are of assistance to the Club. Our new grounds team (using the Sage Hoop-resetting Kit) will keep the lawns maintained.

Our Community activities helped to strengthen ties with the following four Municipal Councils, namely, Strathfield, City of Canada Bay, Burwood and Ashfield. We had involvement with the latter two Councils due to the Sport-A-Month Program. We have had several new experienced players join us, namely, Heather Smallbone and Alfred James. In the 2011-2012 financial year, we have been invited once again to be involved in their Open Day; the ACU Students will again be back, and we will continue our involvement in Seniors' Week.

It was exciting to have Glenda Chaplyn elected Captain at the AGM, and she, Heather Smallbone, and Roberta Flint will form our Tournament Committee. Geoff Boyce was re-elected President, with Yvonne Webster (Secretary) and Barbara Robinson (Treasurer). I will continue as Publicity Officer. Other new positions were also created, that reflected a Club that is continuing to develop.



Four new players who attended a Sport-a-Month Session, appeared in the recent *Burwood Scene*. This picture has been reproduced with the permission of the Scene's editor, Belinda Noonan.



Getting down to business: Heather Smallbone (front left) shows members of the Grounds Team how to use the new kit for setting hoops

Front right: Robert Flint

Standing behind: Richard Thomas, Brian Doughan, and Charles Britton

Ruth Bridger
Publicity Officer



Gateball in September

Newcastle National Park Croquet Club will be hosting the Australian Gateball Championships over the weekend of September 16-18.

A contingent of 34 from China as well as teams from India and Japan will be attending along with Australian teams and more than 150 visitors are expected.

Gilon Smith, the National Gateball Director, along with his committee has done most of the organising and we are all looking forward to an exciting and busy weekend! The opening Ceremony will take place at 4 pm on Friday 16th and will be attended by many local dignitaries as well as the local media. We will have two local teams in the championships – "Team Hunter" and the "Newcastle Minnows", and they are rapidly honing their skills in what is a very challenging game.

We would welcome all to come and watch the games!

Jill Manton
President