

CROQUET NSW NEWSLETTER

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The Golden Mallet trophy from 2020

GOLDEN MALLET AWARDS

Nominations Close Friday 27 November

Croquet NSW is calling for nominations for the *Croquet NSW Golden Mallet Award 2020*. This annual award, inaugurated in 2020 will be presented by Croquet NSW for *outstanding contributions to croquet in NSW or the ACT*.

The award is an opportunity to recognize CNSW members including officials, players at all levels and Club volunteers for their contributions to Croquet.

Finalists and the winner will be announced at the Christmas presentation event planned for December.

All nominations will be assessed in strict confidence by a sub-committee of CNSW, with recommendations made to the CNSW Board which will make the final decision.

Last year's nominations revealed the depth of the contribution made by Club members across the State, and all nominations were acknowledged for their contribution.

Cliff Elliott from South West Rocks is once again crafting the trophy for the winner.

Forms will be sent to all Club Secretaries, with nominations to be sent to secretary@cnsw-org.au by 27 November.

UPDATE YOUR CLUB DETAILS

A Reminder to update your [Club Details](#) on the Croquet NSW website.

A number of Clubs have managed to hold AGM's and so the Secretary and President details may have changed. It is important to update the contact details for Secretary and President, to ensure correspondence gets to the correct person. Please also check the name of your Club to ensure it is correct. This may impact on the upcoming vote for the proposed new CNSW Constitution.



Steve Miles

Board members

Chair: [Kate Elliott](#)

Treasurer: [Steve Miles](#)

Secretary/Newsletter: [Kate McLoughlin](#)

Director Projects: [Rosie Landrebe](#)

Website: croquet-nsw.org

the newsletter and board minutes and meeting. I am delighted that Kate is now able to move to handling the balance of the secretary duties. Now, if only I could get more time on the croquet lawn!

BOARD UPDATE

At the recent Board Meeting, the success of the first online Workshop was noted, and the Board is looking at two more workshops this year, and at least three more in 2021. The recent newsletter has also been well received by members: thanks for your feedback.

There are a number of opportunities to volunteer with Croquet NSW in the areas of Refereeing and Selection, which are advertised elsewhere in this newsletter. The Board was sad to receive the resignation of Steve Marton, for personal reasons, and we look forward to filling the position.

The Board welcomed Greg Bury to the meeting to talk about the Australian Croquet Academy, which was launched on the 16th October. The Board was excited by the breadth of vision of the Academy, which included not only the new national Coaching Accreditation system, but looks at common national goals and resources. Work is being done on promotional videos, a podcast relating to lawns and their care, a survey of members, and the relaunch of the national magazine: Croquet Gazette. Watch this [video](#) on the ACA website for more information.

The Board has asked Nerida Taylor to continue her work progressing the revised Selection Policy in conjunction with the GC and AC Selection Committee Chairs. The Board is also calling for nominations for the Golden Mallet Award to honour our hardworking volunteers across the State and Territory. And Clubs will have received the new draft Constitution via Club secretaries and delegates. Send in your feedback by **November 30** to secretary@croquet-nsw.org

FROM THE TREASURER

Our move to invoicing clubs for their annual affiliation fees went well and I thank clubs for their co-operation. I would like to recommend online banking to those clubs who are yet to try it. It is available free from most banks, and was one of the reasons CNSW changed to Bendigo Bank. Online banking accounts can accommodate two to sign. Often clubs have a main bank account with two to sign. This is the main account and is used for income and also large expense payments. There is a second account which is used for small expenses payments. The only income for the small payment account is transfers from the main account. This meets the common constitution requirement for all payments to be approved by two signatures.

Online banking also enables banking to continue when the treasurer goes on holidays and provides easy access for other club officials. It comes highly recommended from me.

Since the AGM I have handled both the Treasurer and Secretary roles as Kate McLoughlin settled in to handling

LAWN MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP

The final online workshop for 2020 will be **Lawn Maintenance, held Wednesday Dec 2, 6pm** The workshop will feature some case studies and tips to assist clubs in common questions about lawn care. Presenters will include Peter Freer, Canberra, Rob Elliott, Cooks River and more. When you register, please let us know what issues are of concern for you to assist in focusing the presentation.

The workshop will be held via ZOOM, so please ensure you download and register on the [ZOOM](#) application. Bookings for the workshop are essential via kmcl1455@gmail.com.



1Rob Elliott watering lawns at Cook's River, with Derek Bull

JUMPING JEN FROM CHATSWOOD

Most of us find it a challenge to get our jump shots working in golf Croquet. Imagine doing them over the side of a wheelchair. Jenny Liddle from Chatswood takes it in her stride...well her chair!

I asked Jenny how she came to join Chatswood Croquet Club.



2Jen Liddle doing a jump shot at Chatswood, photo Rosemary Howard

'I live across the road and for 8 years I watched them play through the fence - I was jealous. Mobility prevented me until I got my Power Wheelchair two years ago. Then I went knocking on their door asking if I could. After assessing suitability, my whole world changed when they said YES.

I enjoy the strategy of the game, social connections (fun and laughter), and the freedom of being out in the fresh air. Peter Coles customised my Mallet with a longer handle and Ovoid shape to help give a sense of direction for sideways hitting.

Hitting balls over the arm of my Wheelchair has it's challenges, one elbow bone held tightly against the arm-rest stabilises my arm for the backward pendulum swing (unlike using one's ribs as other players do). Get that wrong and the direction of my ball quickly has a mind all of it's own - I just call it a clever defence shot, of course.

Ball placement varies too. For standard shots the ball sits by the front wheel but moves to the back of the large wheel for jump shots. Lawn awareness is important. To avoid creating divets with my wheels I do long wide turns to stalk my balls. I don't play rainy days as churning up the lawn is more likely.

I watched others do jump shots, quickly realising I had to learn. Letting my partner down and gifting a hoop was not good. For me there was no "How-To Manual", instead lots of thoughts and practice. As my reward, squeals of delight can sometimes be heard when I execute that cool jump shot. Unfortunately, I

don't play Club competitions. Every five months I am hospitalised, with recovery and treatment taking me out of circulation/croquet for a one month period. I'm kindly giving my fellow croquet friends time to practice before I make my comeback once again, haha.

In-home practice sessions involve hitting 9cm rubber balls across the lounge floor. Bed-rest days I visualise shots and strategies to put into my muscle memory for game play. I want to continue identifying shots to improve, to prevent the opposition from running hoops easily, or not at all. Plus, keep playing mind games to wear them out. My funniest worst shot is my "90 degree Stop Shot" which ran the opposition's ball through the hoop (he was delighted).

My Fridge Magnet says "Addicted to Croquet" - I think we all are when we play croquet and long may our Addiction continue.'

BEV SMITH RULES!

Bev Smith from Maitland Croquet Club is standing down after around ten years as the NSW State Director, Refereeing – Golf Croquet. I asked Bev about her introduction to croquet and refereeing. She started playing croquet soon after she retired from teaching in 2002. Soon afterwards she developed an interest in refereeing. She said 'I was playing croquet in Taree when I noticed one of the women wearing a large ACA badge. How do I get one of those she asked? You can't buy them, you have to earn them, was the answer: it's a Referee Badge'. So Bev put her heart and soul into earning a referees badge. She became hooked on the rules and their application. After sitting her referee exam she was told, well I think you got 11/10!



3Bev Smith, centre, at Interstate Shield GC Championships, Hunter Valley 2018. John Eddes (l) and Jim Clements (r)

'I loved finding clarity in the complexity of the rules. I could see that the rules helped the game run smoothly, and to me it made the games more interesting.'

'During my time as State Director of GC Refereeing, I have had the most wonderful opportunities. I have refereed at the Women's GC World Championships in New Zealand, at two World Championships in Australia, and all Australian Championships around the country. It has enabled me to see the world's best players, to be part of the atmosphere of top level competition. My goal has always been to become the best referee that I could. Being a referee can be controversial, and not everyone agrees with your decision. I simply say: "I've made my call. Play on"'

What will Bev get up to now? 'I will never lose my passion for refereeing, and will always be interested in guiding others and being involved on a more local level. I am looking forward to playing more croquet at my own club, especially when my knees are healed from surgery. I have been playing competitive sport (mostly hockey) since I was 11 years old, so I'm not planning on stopping now! And I have met the most wonderful people. I have enjoyed every minute of my time and will continue to do so!'

TIME TO STEP UP

Opportunities to volunteer for the NSW Croquet Community exist for:

GC Selection Committee: 2 positions

The role of a selector is to work with the other selectors to choose players for State teams and specific State events, using a fair, transparent and documented selection process. The person will work on the GC Selection Committee, Contact secretary@croquet-nsw.org for position description.

Expressions of interest stating relevant experience and skills for the position to be received by 20 November 2020.

State Director Refereeing - GC

The role of the Director of Refereeing is to co-ordinate the training of referees, oversee the appointment of tournament referees, ensure referees are up to date with GC laws and regulations, and represent NSW in relation to refereeing matters. Contact secretary@croquet-nsw.org for further information.

Expressions of interest stating relevant experience and skills for the position to be received by 20 November 2020.

WINNERS ARE GRINNERS

NSW GC DIVISION 1 SINGLES (held at Cook's River) won by Peter Freer (Canberra), runner up Pamela Barnwell (Newcastle)

NSW AC OPEN SINGLES (held at Cook's River) won by Tim Murphy (Canberra) from Callum Hyland (Sandy Bay, Tas)

MOSMAN PRIZE GC Handicap (held at Mosman) won by Michael Chang from Rose Anne White.

Check [Croquet Scores](#) for more results

TOURNAMENTS COMING UP

AC Champion of Club Champions, 14-16 November, Cook's River, entries close 6 November.

GC Champion of Club Champions, 14-17 November, Cook's River, entries close 6 November.

Beryl Chambers Trophy for NSW AC Handicap Championship, 20-23 November, Tempe. Regional qualifying rounds to be completed by 8 November.

NSW GC Open Doubles, 26-28 November, Cook's River, entries close 13 November. Note there will be a GC Test series in the format of the Interstate Shield between 2 top NSWGC teams to be played 5-6 December at Newcastle Croquet Club.

COVID GUIDELINES UPDATE

Latest [guidelines](#) on the website allow limited opening of clubhouses for sport participation, and new guidance on end of season functions and team bbqs.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Your contributions to the Croquet NSW newsletter are welcome. Contact Kate McLoughlin at newsletter@croquet-nsw.org

