

CROQUET NSW NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2021



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GOLDEN MALLET AWARDS

Nominations Close Friday 3 December

Croquet NSW is calling for nominations for the *Croquet NSW Golden Mallet Award 2021*. This annual award, inaugurated in 2019, 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.

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. Finalists and the winner will be announced in December.

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@csw-org.au by **3 December**.

HELP CNSW LOCATE TROPHIES

After two years of tournament turmoil CNSW needs to locate and update all the CNSW silverware.

Does your club or any of your members have a CNSW trophy?

If YES can you forward the following details to Ray Chapman chapmanray89@yahoo.com Your location

1. What tournament and which year did you win it?
2. Confirm your name is engraved on the trophy
3. Please include a picture of the trophy

Croquet NSW acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands of NSW on which we meet and enjoy croquet. We pay our respects to elders past and present and emerging.

Board members
Chair: Kate McLoughlin
Deputy Chair: Rik Mills
Treasurer: Steve Miles
Secretary: David Scott
Projects and Grants: Rosie Landrebe
Newsletter: Liz Friend
Board member: Ray Chapman
Website: croquet-nsw.org

BOARD UPDATE

I am pleased to introduce the newly elected Board in this Newsletter. Kate McLoughlin has been elected Chair, Rik Mills, Deputy Chair, David Scott, Secretary, Steve Miles, Treasurer, Rosie Landrebe Grants and Projects, Liz Friend GC Selection and Ray Chapman Board member.

Profiles for new Board members included in the newsletter give a good understanding of the skills and geographical reach of Board members. Five out of seven members are from regional NSW, and the energy and commitment of these members is already apparent.

Liz Friend will take over the Newsletter, and will be pleased to hear of your suggestions and contributions at newsletter@croquet-nsw.org. David Scott is the Secretary, so correspondence and general inquiries should be directed to him at the secretary email address. Ray Chapman is tracking down CNSW trophies and ordering this information, as well as taking on the role of Board contact for Ricochet, Tournaments and Junior Croquet. Rosie is continuing to flesh out the Hubs proposal, Steve Miles is continuing in the valuable role of Treasurer, as well as the Board contact for Coaching, and Deputy Chair Rik Mills is also the Board contact for Association Selection and Refereeing.

CNSW continues to work with Cooks River in finding a suitable agreement for a strong community based Club and a State Centre for competition. Croquet NSW is currently managing the lawns, Cooks River the booking system. Information on booking is included in this newsletter.



Nominations for the Golden Mallet Award for 2021 have opened, and I encourage clubs to nominate a Club member for this member based award. It has been a tricky year to manage member engagement with varying access to play and to competition, and I know many Clubs have worked hard to engage members and to continue play where possible.

The Club Hubs proposal will shortly open for the first round of applications, and we look forward to hearing from Clubs who are interested in signing up for this exciting venture.

Tournaments have begun again, and David Stanton and the Tournaments Committee are working hard to fit in as many tournaments as feasible for the remainder of the year. He is always interested in hearing from Clubs interested in hosting Croquet NSW Tournaments for the coming year.

And in 2022, we are very excited to be hosting the postponed Eire Cup Association croquet competition in March 2022 in

Sydney. We have had confirmation of the generosity of our Patrons, Her Excellency the Honorable Margaret Beazley AC QC and Adjunct Professor Dennis Wilson, in confirming their hosting of the Opening Reception for this event at Government House.

So, we look forward to the coming year, in increasing the visibility of our sport, attracting new members, communicating regularly with Clubs, building the Club Hubs and increasing your enjoyment of the wonderful sport of croquet.

Kate McLoughlin
Chair, Croquet NSW



CLUB HUB PROJECT

CNSW is happy to advise that on the 12th of November we will be launching an Expression of Interest to all clubs in NSW to be a part of the **CLUB HUB PROJECT**.

What is the CLUB HUB PROJECT?

CNSW lodged a successful grant application last year that will enable us to collaborate with 6 clubs across the state and fund the delivery of the ACA Academy programs and other coaching, marketing and event management sessions at your club or a club close to yours.

It will also provide clubs with the opportunity to host CNSW events and assist with the cost of doing so.

The CLUB HUBS PROJECT is being funded for the next 2 years, [2022, 2023] providing the successful applicant clubs with a grant of \$5,000 each year to spend toward the designated activities of the Project, namely growing croquet enjoyment, skills, participation and supporting other croquet clubs in your local area.

We will be applying for ongoing funding for Project after 2023.

CNSW is looking for partner clubs to come on this amazing journey, so please consider applying when you receive the EOI information Pack.

Please see the link to the [CLUB HUB](#) Presentation via the News page of the Website.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

David Scott

What brought you to being a member of the Board?

A desire to contribute to our wonderful sport, provide another NSW regional perspective, a passion to see croquet enjoyed by more people and more public money spent on upgrading/expanding existing facilities and creating new ones.

What is your portfolio and what is your key focus for next twelve months?

My portfolio is Secretary and my key focus is to be well organised so communications are clear and timely and administration/record keeping is effective.

What is your vision for croquet in NSW and what do you think clubs and individual members can do to support that?

Croquet is a sport anyone can play, whether it be for social and/or competitive motivations so my vision is to see more people join and enjoy the sport with clear pathways to excellence for those who desire to reach the apex.

I'm impressed by the innovation and success of many CNSW clubs and encouraged by the vast talent evident from many CNSW members. I hope we can garner that innovation and talent to expand croquet in NSW.

Tell us a bit about your Club and what you like best about it?

My club, Ballina Cherry Street Croquet, formed in 2010 so is a youngster in the sport. We have 70 odd members with an average age of 79. We share two lawns with another Croquet club, each playing 3 days per week. In fine weather we often see 70 – 90 player sessions per week covering 3 codes - AC, GC & RC. Our golf sessions often accommodate 12 people on each lawn at the same time, smiles on every face. Seeing others enjoy themselves is what brings a smile to my dial.

Liz Friend

What brought you to being a member of the Board?

After being asked if I would be interested in joining the Board, I was very pleased that my Club nominated me as I believed I would be able to bring my knowledge and experience to the Board. My work experience in various roles as well as my involvement in a service organisation have given me a sound understanding of effective marketing strategies and engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders.

What is your portfolio and what is your key focus for the next twelve months?



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My portfolio includes Membership and Selection (GC) and I will also prepare the monthly newsletter. I am also looking forward to being on various committees and working groups. To date, communication with members and clubs has been very effective and I plan to continue with this good work to promote and market croquet, not just to members, but to the wider community.

What is your vision for croquet in NSW and what do you think clubs and individual members can do to support that?

Since I became involved with croquet five years' ago, I have observed how inclusive croquet is. It is certainly a sport that most people can enjoy, both socially and competitively, with the opportunity to play different codes in many locations. I see that the volunteer spirit in clubs is strong and this can be seen in club activities, including their commitment to Club, inter-club and CNSW tournaments, either by holding events or attending events. Croquet is a sport that is thriving and this can be attributed to the volunteers who willingly step up as well as the positive culture that has been nurtured over the years. I believe that CNSW, together with all stakeholders, will continue to see great outcomes from this support.

Tell us a bit about your Club and what you like best about it?

Following retirement, I moved from Canberra five years' ago and started playing croquet. I am a very proud of my club, Nelson Bay, as there has been strong leadership over many years that has developed both the Club and its players. Coaching has been one of the priorities, at all levels, and the opportunity to compete has been encouraged without affecting the desire of those members who just wish to improve their game with no real plans to compete. It is a friendly club with many volunteers who enjoy giving their time to ensure that things run smoothly. I enjoy the social side as well as the competition, but the best part has been the opportunity to meet people and make friends when I moved to the area only knowing a few people.

Ray Chapman



What brought you to being a member of the Board

With three vacancies this year I thought I could make a difference if I got on the Board.

I am a practical, positive, energetic, hardworking individual with a work background that allows me to be highly organised with an attitude of getting things done.

What is your Board portfolio and what is your key focus for the next 12 months

My position on the Board is that of a general Board member.

I am the nominated contact person for the Tournament Committee, Ricochet and Junior Croquet. This will ensure there is a communication link to the Board.

My key focus will be assisting in any way possible to increase croquet participation throughout the State.

What is your vision for croquet in NSW and what do you think clubs and individual members can do to support that.

My vision is to see Croquet youth participation numbers grow through the introduction of croquet as a sports option within schools and the establishment of junior croquet squads throughout the State for coaching, practice and competitions.

Clubs will need to support this vision by approaching individual schools and hopefully setting up dates and times for schools to participate.

Individual members will need to assist where possible in making this vision a success.

Tell us a bit about your local club and what you like best about it.

Ballina Cherry Street is the largest croquet club in the Northern Rivers Croquet Association with over 80 members who play all forms of croquet from club games to State events.

What I love about our club is that every new member is welcome like they were a member of the family. Our club is one of the social hubs in the area where members can come along have chat with friends, cup of tea, and play croquet.

BOOKING TO PLAY AT TEMPE

Non-CRCC members wishing to play at Tempe should first access the Cooks River CC Court Booking system. This can be done in two ways:

- via the CRCC website (www.cooksrivercroquetclub.com), then click on “Lawn Bookings”;
- by going to [Court Booking System \(croquetbooking.com\)](http://Court Booking System (croquetbooking.com)); or
- by going to www.croquetbooking.com and scrolling up to “Cooks River”

Whatever method is used, you will be presented by a chart showing availability of courts at Tempe today. Sessions which have a solid colour cannot be booked, those with a diagonal with the bottom half coloured can be booked. Sessions are colour coded to indicate what type of play will be taking place. The description at the top of the session describes the session (usually “General play” or “AC or GC Club day”, followed by two numbers in square brackets. These numbers indicate the number of players registered for the session and the maximum for the session. You can scroll through the calendar day by day using the arrows next to the “Today” button at the top left, or by clicking on a date in the calendars on the left of the screen.

All CNSW members are welcome to register for any “General play” session, and will also usually be welcome at an AC or GC Club day. Cost is \$6 per day (invoiced monthly)

To register to play, send an email to cooksrivercroquetclub@gmail.com, including your name and the name of your croquet club, and the session at which you would like to play. Also, indicate if this is likely to be a one-off or infrequent visit to Tempe, or if you expect to play at Tempe fairly often. If you are likely to be an infrequent player at Tempe, we will register you for the session requested, and your name will be shown as, for example, “CNSW John Smith”. If you expect to play at Tempe fairly often, you will be added to the CRCC court booking system as a user, with a username of, for example, “jsmith” and a name of “CNSW John Smith”. You can then access the booking system by clicking the “Login” button at the top right of the screen using either your username or your email address. Once again, you will be invoiced monthly.

GRANTS COMING UP

Community Sport Recovery Grants

The NSW Government has announced a \$25 million funding package for the Sport and Recreation sector as part of the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Strategy.

The Sport and Recreation Recovery and Community Rebuild Package includes:

- Up to \$12.5 million for grants of up to \$1,000 to eligible clubs and associations;
- Up to \$7.8 million to support sporting organisations and peak bodies;
- \$3.1 million to support participation initiatives focused on areas most affected by restrictions, including south-western Sydney and regional NSW;
- Up to \$1 million for grants to support marketing and promotional activities for outdoor and active recreation providers; and
- \$600,000 to support regional talent pathways in the lead up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympics.

Applications open in November.

<https://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/grants/recoverypackage/grassroots-sport-fund>

Stronger Community Grants

We have a new round of funding coming through now through your Local Federal MP. We have the opportunity to fund projects in Clubs between \$2,500 and \$20,000 which include repairs and maintenance, capital projects and capital equipment. This includes things like buying a new mower, fixing the clubhouse roof, disabled access, a renovated bathroom etc.

While the date for Final Submission is 19th January 2022, the application process has a few steps to complete before this date. Each electorate and MP will have a slightly different Process & Timeline specific to your area.

First Step would be for clubs to check with your Local MP, via their website, or have you received a letter outlining their process already? Why not make contact directly by dropping into their Office.

In the first instance you will need to submit an expression of interest (EOI) to your Local Member over coming weeks around your Project Brief and funding required. You may have already mentioned something you need when they last visited. Now is the time to act! The Local Member may have a template or survey, For example, in Newcastle, MP Sharon Claydon has a survey form on her website.

If your EOI is successful, you may be shortlisted and sent a LINK for online application. Key to this will be your relationship with your Local MP.

This type of funding can have a huge impact on your Club's appeal to potential new members and help you with your operations at the club.

Process:

- Identify Projects that are a priority for your Club.
- Identify timelines & process for your Local MP through their website/Office.
- Gather quotes (if required).

When you write your EOI

- Please describe your small capital works' project or capital expenditure in 1,000 words or less.
- Briefly describe how this project will contribute to an improvement in local community participation, cohesion, and enhance the vibrancy of our community.
- Grant funding sought (\$).

Contact secretary@croquet-nsw.org for further information or assistance

GC REFEREE NEWS - NOVEMBER 2021

Recently accredited:

Aileen Matlawski - Forster Club
 Congratulations!

Retiring 1/12/21:

Debbie Anderson - Urunga
 Ron Jones - EDSACC
 Margaret Mellander - EDSACC
 Penny Scott - Ballina Cherry St

Thank you all for your contribution!

GC Referee protocols for the "new COVID-19 normal"



As competitive play resumes, referees will continue to be there as a supportive resource for players. For the protection of everyone involved, some additional protocols will be implemented by referees.

- ❖ Referees will have Eyes and Mind on the play but Hands *OFF!*
 As far as possible, they will avoid any contact with equipment while play is in progress.
- ❖ Referees will remain accessible but seek to minimise their presence on the lawn and are very likely to wear a mask whenever they are active on the lawn.

If the need arises, players will be expected to move balls and/or clips as directed by the referee. In addition, players should carry markers with them at all times and be ready to mark any ball they own if requested by the other game in double-banked play.

ADVANTAGE GC HANDICAPPING

An invitation to Associations, clubs and players to try a new form of handicap GC

The World Croquet Federation has written to all Clubs inviting them to trial a new form of handicap play in Golf Croquet games. Croquet NSW invites interested Clubs to try the system at Club or regional tournaments to see how it works. Send your feedback to Ray Chapman chapmanray89@yahoo.com. We can then send some information to the WCF if they are still collecting it.

The current form of handicap GC uses extra strokes and is played mainly in Australia, England, and New Zealand and almost nowhere else. It is not generally regarded as the optimal way of allowing players of different abilities to compete on equal terms.

In 2020, the WCF Management Committee (“MC”) obtained details from the Croquet Association of Ireland of a form of handicap GC that it had used successfully in recent years. This did not use extra strokes but instead gave the weaker player an advantage in the form of a certain number of hoops. Unlike the current form of handicap GC, this version did not require different tactics from the level game and it was believed that this made it easier for new and improving players to develop.

The MC then established a Working Group with representatives from Australia, England, Latvia, Uruguay and USA with the task of coming up with a statistically sound and yet simple-to-use algorithm which would give both players a 50/50 chance of winning a game through an adjustment of the number of hoops that needed to be scored by one or both players to win a game.

The Working Group has developed a form of GC which has been named “Advantage GC” which is described in the three documents below, namely (1) an introduction and outline of the game, (2) a table of starting scores for a GC handicap game which depend on either the handicaps or DGrades of the players and (3) the mathematical basis of the algorithm that generates the starting scores.

The MC believes that Advantage GC has an excellent chance of gaining general support amongst the playing community if they have the opportunity to try it out. An official trial will take place during the English CA's Southern Federation 2021 League season. However, players around the world are warmly encouraged to read at least the first two documents and try Advantage GC in their clubs and, if possible, in some handicap tournaments during 2021.

All participants in trials of Advantage GC are requested to send feedback to the MC about their impressions and observations and also provide game results which show the handicaps and/or DGrades of the players. The MC would like to receive as much feedback and results data as possible by the end of 2021. A dedicated email address has been set up for this purpose

– advantagegc@worldcroquet.org

For more information check out the [World Croquet Federation](http://WorldCroquetFederation.org) website.

TOURNAMENTS COMING UP

Eva Short Memorial Trophy (AC) 12-13 February

Win Dickinson Memorial Trophy (AC) 12-13 February

5 and Under Mixed Doubles (AC) 19-20 February

Orange City Autumn Carnival (AC) 24-28 March

Three days of Ricochet at Sawtell are being held 18-20 March

NSW Open Men's GC Singles, 26-28 March, Tempe, entries close 15 March

NSW Open Women's GC Singles, 8-10 April, Tempe, entries close 2 April

Check out the [Events](#) tab on the CNSW website.

CNSW AGM

The AGM was held on October 23, via ZOOM with 24 delegates and 10 Board members and observers attending. The [Annual Report](#) and Financial Reports were presented and are available to see on the website. There is also a recorded version of the meeting and the Forum which is available to view on [Youtube](#).

The Forum saw a presentation on [Club Hubs](#), and questions and comments on Handicapping, Cooks River croquet Club, and coaching courses.

Thanks to all who attended.

STATE HANDICAPPER

Croquet NSW is looking for a person(s) to undertake the role of State Handicapper.

The State Handicapper shall administer the Australian Handicapping Regulations for Croquet NSW. They will consider and impart to all clubs additional supplementary advice or guidelines as they are received from time to time from the ACA

Handicapping Committee.

The Officer should ideally:

- Be familiar with Association Croquet, Golf Croquet and Ricochet
- Have a broad knowledge of play and competition throughout the State
- Be available for advice on Handicapping for Clubs across the State
- Provide information and training where appropriate in the area of assigning, changing and determining player handicaps.

It may be possible to appoint a different person for the different codes. Gareth Denyer (current handicapper) is happy to be a mentor for the position.

Please contact the [Chair](#) for more information, and send your expression of interest to secretary@croquet-nsw.org by **22 November 2021**

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

This is my last newsletter as Editor, and I am very happy to hand the job over to Liz Friend. I thank you for your contributions and support for keeping you informed via this newsletter. I am sure you will continue to support Liz as she takes on the role.

Send contributions to newsletter@croquet-nsw.org

Kate McLoughlin