

NEWSLETTER

October 2023



IN THIS EDITION

Board Update
Gateball News
A little bit of history ...
Winners are Grinners
Tournaments Coming Up
... and other news

NSW WINS INTERSTATE SHIELD AT THE NATIONAL GOLF CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIPS, PERTH 2023

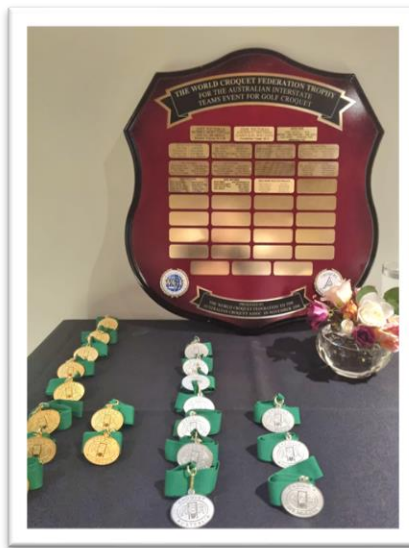
NSW has retained the Interstate Shield (ISS), with a tight finish against WA on the final day of competition. This concluded the 12-day national Golf Croquet events run in Perth, which comprised the Gold and Silver medals for the champion singles player; the Australian Men's and Women's Golf Croquet Singles Championships, and the Interstate Shield. Jamie Gumbrell was the NSW representative in the Gold/Silver medal event and did not drop a match leading into the final best of 3 against Gary Phipps (WA) who had likewise won against all other State representatives. The other state reps were Mary McMahon (Qld), Owen Dickinson (Vic), Phil Roach (TAS), Barry Jennings (SA, he replaced Paul Ensor). Jamie fought back from the first 7-4 loss, to narrowly lose the second 7-6. A worthy Silver Medallist for NSW.

The Men's and Women's singles were held over 6 Clubs in Perth on 22 lawns. The event started with block rounds for the 42 women and 51 men. NSW players: Jamie Gumbrell, Pamela Barnwell, Kate McLoughlin, Liz Montague, Georgina Carnegie, Jill Sullivan from the women all proceeded to the best of three knockout contest, Georgina from a four-way playoff!

In the Men's contest Peter Freer, Mark Scruton, Peter Montague, Kevin McGlynn, David Scott, Derek Bull, Malcolm Powys, all made it to the round of 32 knockout. Derek and David came through another round, but in some tough matchups it was a Fletcher brothers' final: going the full 5 games with a 7-6 finish. Kevin McGlynn won the Y Final against Victorian Shane Downie.

In the Women's contest Jamie, Liz and Pamela won through their first round of the knockout, with Pamela defeating Liz to make it to the semifinals, where she met Jamie, who won through and defeated Virginia Arney to win her second Australian Women's Singles title in succession. A very worthy champion, and great result in equal 3rd for Pamela.

After this gruelling 4-day contest (7 days for Jamie) it's straight into the Interstate Shield where 4 men and 4 women from each State do battle each day for the coveted national trophy. NSW had won in 2022, narrowly defeating WA, so we knew that WA would be looking for a home State victory in 2023.



(L:R) Kate, Jamie, Liz, Peter, Gerda, Jill, Kevin, Malcolm, Mark and David.

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

(ISS cont.)

This year it was apparent that all States had lifted their game and their competitiveness, and on Day 3 some surprise results saw SA defeating WA, QLD defeating NSW, so that after 3 days of play, four States were on 2 wins each, so the contest was poised for any of them to win. On day 4 NSW rallied and defeated SA, and the final contest had WA and NSW on 3 wins each. The doubles pairings this year had stood NSW in good stead, and we were 2 match wins to 1 after doubles play on the final day. Jamie was the standout performer once again winning both her singles matches, but with a swag of other first round losses NSW was under the pump to hold their own. The ISS is unique in its best of two format, so to win a match requires winning both games. If that's not possible then winning the second equalises the match and does not give the opposition a match win. So, with most players equalising with a second round win, we were able to capitalise on Jamie, Jill and Kate's singles wins to creep ahead 6 matches to 5.

A successful campaign, with a win in the singles for Jamie Gumbrell, and gold for NSW in the ISS. Having 10 players meant we could rest 2 players regularly which was beneficial. The victory was in no small way due to the leadership of the Vice Captain, Jill Sullivan and Captain Peter Freer, and to the support and logistical work of the Team Manager, Peter Montague.

Congratulations to all State team members: Peter Freer, Jill Sullivan, Mark Scruton, Gerda Lambeck, David Scott, Liz Montague, Kevin McGlynn, Jamie Gumbrell, Malcolm Powys, Kate McLoughlin & reserves: Derek Bull, Ethan Gumbrell, Sue Sellers & Pauline Markwell. And I congratulate the GC Selectors: Peter Montague, Peter Freer, Ros Johnston and David Hanbidge on their work.

Kate McLoughlin

BOARD MEMBERS

Chair: Kate McLoughlin

Deputy Chair: Ray Chapman

Treasurer: Steve Miles

Secretary: Rik Mills

Board Member: Stephen Burns

Board Member: Fidy Westgarth

Newsletter: Liz Friend

newsletter@croquet-nsw.org

Website: <https://croquet-nsw.org>

[Croquet NSW Facebook page](#)

FROM THE BOARD

Volunteering

The last Board meeting in September discussed the issue of volunteering in response to a board paper on the shortage of GC referees, particularly in Sydney. Of course, a good referee is not needed – until they are! If players expect to be refereed, then they should be willing to step up and be a referee themselves. As well as contributing to their sport, referees have the advantage of seeing the best players up close. Knowing the rules also helps players make better decisions. But the burden of refereeing is falling on fewer and fewer people. Some clubs are actively working to increase their number of referees, but more are needed. CNSW has more than 3,200 players and if only 2% became referees in the next year CNSW would have 64 more referees. Having more referees to the playing level would let the more experienced referees have more time for coordinating and training which are all required by the ACA accreditation system.

Coaching is perhaps the most rewarding part of croquet. Not only do you have the satisfaction of seeing players develop, but your own game improves as you explain how to do shots to others. But somebody needs to coach the coaches, and this is where more volunteers are needed. More people are needed to deliver coaching programs through the clubs and especially the regional Hubs. Croquet NSW is a volunteer run organisation and as a result has the lowest affiliation fees of all States. In my role as Treasurer, I am fortunate to be assisted by Lisa Kelshaw who handles Merchandise Sales (all those GC rule books) and Pam Wiemers who handles new memberships. They make my job easier. Can you make somebody's job easier?

Aside from ACA affiliation, CNSW's major expense is maintaining the lawns at Tempe, CNSW Headquarters. This costs \$40,000 a year with about \$8,000 of income coming from lawn use fees including Cooks River Croquet Club member fees. But even though CNSW employs a greenkeeper, there is still a lot of volunteer work done by the Facilities Management Committee. Hedges need to be trimmed, extra mowing needs to be done, lawns marked, hoops swung, surrounds mowed and all of that weeding. Cooks River Croquet Club is also stepping up to lend a hand.



Steve Miles is not always mowing the lawns

Even though volunteering has its own reward, a word of thanks goes a long way. And it goes even further if it is followed by an offer to help and step up into one of the volunteer positions that support your sport.

Steve Miles, CNSW Treasurer

REFLECTIONS ON THREE YEARS AS ACT/NSW GATEBALL COORDINATOR

As I pack up my CNSW Gateball kit in preparation for a new coordinator, it's time for a little reflection.

Three years in the job and I know it is trite to write but it really was a period of highs and lows. Covid interrupted all competition in 2020 and some part of 2021. At the first opportunity to travel in November 2021 we introduced the game to nine croquet players at Twin Cities CC in Albury. These players formed a team to play in the 2022 CNSW State championships and continue to play now with Albury CC.

By 2022 it seemed we all wanted to catch up with friends and play so the CNSW State championships in Albury/Wodonga saw the highest number of entries. A record number of 25 pairs contested the Doubles competition and 13 teams contested the Clare & Ken Poole Teams' trophy.

This tournament was fraught with difficulties. The Albury Twin Cities Croquet Club lawns were unplayable due to heavy unseasonal Spring rains. Quick thinking and many helpful folks were needed to convert a nearby soccer field to accommodate Day 1 of our Friday Doubles. It was a day of sadness as a Canberra player, Andrew Davies, suffered a heart attack during the first round and died in the Albury Hospital.

The soccer field was a very short-term solution with no weekend access so the tournament was moved to the Wodonga Tennis Centre for the weekend. Again, many players pitched in and transported all the paraphernalia of a Gateball tournament across the border.

In my term as NSW Coordinator many initiatives have seen an increase in players to around 105 from 78 in 2022. The NSW Club Hub program has enabled us to introduce the game to three northern NSW Clubs at Ballina, Coutts Crossing and Cherry Street, and to Cooks River CC at Tempe with coaching and equipment provided.

In September this year 17 players from West Street, Milton-Ulladulla and Nowra Croquet Clubs all had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the equipment, rules and how to play the game. The day was coordinated by Judy Tier the NSW Coordinator and ably assisted by Glenda and Manuel Gutierrez from Jamberoo Croquet Club. Glenda and Manuel, now Associate Members of Nowra CC, will continue to mentor players with a weekly draw which has promise of a continuation of the discipline in this area.

In 2023 new ACA-endorsed tournament regulations and referee processes were confirmed by Gateball Australia. These processes are endeavouring to formalise, with varying success, many of Gateball's traditional ad hoc organisation. As with the introduction of any major change there is often push back and some refinements may be needed to accommodate the requirements of States and Territories outside Queensland – now the unofficial home of Gateball. All NSW clubs are well served with 32 qualified coaches across three levels, however gaining referee qualifications has been very difficult. There are few opportunities for trainee referees to gain qualifications due to the new requirement to have senior referees assess trainees at tournaments with teams. NSW has only two senior active referees and all Doubles, Triples and Team tournament entries are required to have one qualified referee or a referee in training. I leave my role with some satisfaction knowing that in the three years of my stewardship our sport has increased its numbers with new tournament playing opportunities and more NSW Croquet Clubs including Gateball in their disciplines.

CNSW initiatives have expedited this improvement and I especially thank the Board for also supporting my position.

Judy Tier



Margaret Sawers, Captain Nowra CC, introducing Judy Tier (in centre), and Manuel & Glenda Gutierrez at the introduction to Gateball Session, 14 September 2023.

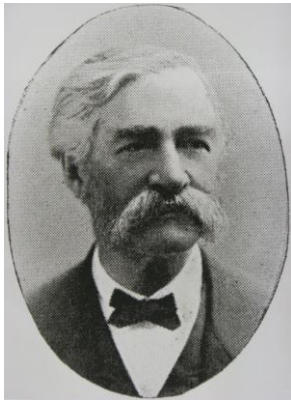
A BIT OF HISTORY AND CROQUET

(A Club Hub activity described by SCC Head Coach/Club Historian, Ruth Bridger)

A group of co-residents at St. Paul's College, Sydney University accepted an invitation to our club. In 2022, I contacted Richard Morgan, Director of Community Engagement at St. Paul's College, who is their College Archivist as well. I knew their College Croquet Club had been established in 1902, just a year or two before our club. I wondered if any earlier links existed between the university croquet club and our croquet division of the Union Recreation Club at Strathfield. It will be interesting to view material in their archives. Strengthening our ties presently could be beneficial in other ways as well. Croquet could be an ideal game to strengthen social ties in a mixed-gender residential college. It is a more inclusive game than most. Our club has offered to help with its development at St. Paul's. 2023 is a special year at St. Paul's College. For the first time in its 165-year history, it opened its doors to both male and female undergraduates. Its Graduate House was already co-residential. They still play occasional social croquet on their croquet lawn. Its heyday was in the 1960s when many of St. Paul's residents joined the Croquet Players Association. Our aim when this College group came to us, was to introduce them to two of the four games we play. We began with Golf Croquet and Gateball. They would take this learning back to their College and spread the word about our sport.



In 1904, Croquet began at the Union Recreation Club. The previous year, some existing members had suggested to Club Management, that croquet be added to their repertoire of outdoor games. Tennis and Bowls were already established. At one stage the croquet membership had grown to sixty. The Croquet Division had the responsibility to organise their sport and be accountable to the General Committee of the club. In the croquet network and beyond, the Croquet Division became widely known as the Strathfield Croquet Club.



Prior to joining the Union Recreation Club, croquet players had been networking across the district and playing on private lawns. Until I collect more data from St Paul's I can only speculate that a similar croquet networking experience happened in the Enmore/Camperdown district. After all, Joshua Frey Josephson (Enmore House) had a very large family of croquet players (nine girls, four boys). He was a society influencer, a founding member of St. Paul's College, and at one time, Mayor of Sydney. Joshua (photo at left) was the owner of Enmore House between 1841-1883. The house was designed by John Verge (1835). Joshua was known as the 'Squire of Newtown'.

In August this year, it felt good to catch up with kindred spirits at St. Paul's. They were keen to promote croquet and community within their University College. We had a strong SCC coach presence on the day. Also, it felt good to again have university students playing at our club. Previously (2010-2014) we coached four hundred U-G ACU Strathfield students in Ricochet, as part of their Target Sports module. Is inter-arsity croquet a possibility or a pipe dream?

Orlando Throsby (a fresher) organised a group of eight undergrads to join our introductory croquet session. Richard Morgan joined us along with Ted Griffin, a seasoned croquet player, who in 1968, was appointed the College's first Warden of the Mallet, charged with looking after croquet at the College (photo at right).



(cont.)

(A bit of history cont.)

John Copeland was a tutor in Vet Science and had been for over ten years. When John left in 1967, he donated a full set of 'real' croquet mallets to the College. Ted shared some of his experiences of college life with our visitors and then joined in the fun of learning to play Gateball. Our Club Captain, Petula Shun, who is also the State Coordinator of Gateball Refereeing, led that segment of the program.

Readers might be interested to know that one of the College's past residents is Damon Bidencepe, current President of the United States Croquet Association (USCA).



REFEREE NEWS

Congratulations to Ralph Harrison - a newly accredited GC referee from Nelson Bay Croquet Club.

Thanks also to the Hunter Region GC Referee Training and Mentoring team - Helen Chalmers (Examining Referee) and Peter Gordon (Tutor Referee).

Lorraine Hatfield

State Director of Refereeing (GC), Croquet NSW

WINNERS ARE GRINNERS

CNSW (AC) GOLD BROOCH (Hcp 3 to 6), 4-6 September, Cammeray

A small but select field of players contested this year's event, playing a double round robin. The final results saw a comfortable win to Paul Skvorc (Cooks River) 5 wins 1 loss net hoops +46, runner-up Michael Strickland (Camberay) 3 wins 3 losses net hoops -23, third Joanne Brown (Camberay) 2 wins 4 losses net hoops -8, and fourth Peter Gordon (Nelson Bay) 2 wins 4 losses net hoops -15.

Many thanks to Cammeray for providing the lawns and all the helpers and volunteers.

CNSW (AC) PLATINUM BROOCH (Hcp 0 to 2.5) 18- 20 September, Chatswood

A small field of 7 players contested this year's event playing a double round robin. The winner was Don Wright (Cooks River) with 5 wins 1 loss and net hoops +53, runner-up Kerri-Ann Organ (Canberra) with 5 wins 1 loss and net hoops +16, and third Tricia Devlin (Castlemaine Vic) with 4 wins 2 losses and net hoops of +25.

Other players were: Paul Skvorc (Cooks River), Mike Hughes (Camberay), Ted Woodley (Chatswood), and Nerida Taylor (Canberra).

Many thanks to Ted Woodley for organising Chatwood to host the event and well done to all the volunteers and helpers.

CNSW (AC) OPEN SINGLES, 22-25, September, Tempe

17 of NSW best AC players gathered at Tempe for this year's event. Players were divided into two blocks with the top 2 in each block progressing to the finals.

In the first semi-final Kerri-Ann Organ defeated Steve Harden 26/18 23/24 17/12, and in the second semi-final Callum Hyland defeated Peter Landrebe 26/12 26/16.

The final was a bit one-sided with Callum Hyland winning 26/0 26/0 with a TP in both games.

A wonderful effort from Callum making it three AC Open Singles wins in a row.

Tricia Delvin (Castlemaine Vic) won the plate undefeated in 7 games, and Tim Murphy won the Y beating Rosemary Landrebe 26/7.

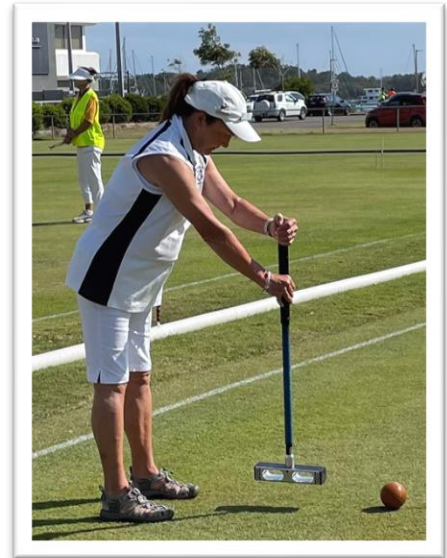
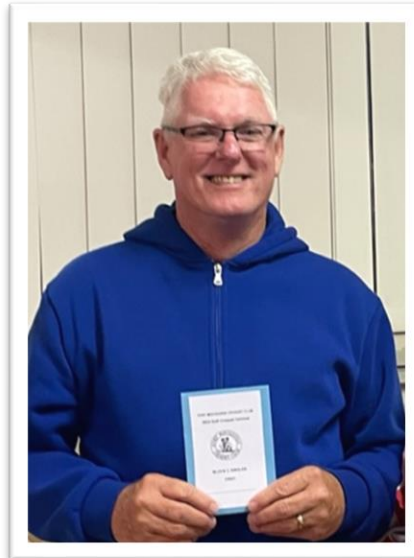
PORT MACQUARIE GC CARNIVAL

Port Macquarie GC Carnival was held over 3 days, 6-8 September. It was Singles games only, 24 players placed into 4 seeded groups. The first 1 ½ days were level play, the last 1 ½ days were Advantage Handicap play. Players came from Jamberoo, Hurstville, EDSACC, Pelican, Toronto, Nelson Bay, Maitland, South West Rocks and Urunga as well as 2 players from Port Macquarie. The weather was variable, beautiful, and sunny the first day, not so the next 2 days. The hardest obstacle was the wind. Storms threatened on Thursday afternoon and the last 2 games were postponed until 7am on the Friday because of lightening risk. It was a matter of “if you don’t like the weather, just wait a minute”, which we did a couple of times. Heartfelt thanks go to members of Port Macquarie Croquet Club for their generous support in helping to make the carnival so successful.

Winners were: Block A Brenda-Lee Peet (Maitland); Block B Liz Friend (Nelson Bay); Block C Tony Croft (Port Macquarie); and Block D Faby Batho (Nelson Bay).



Jill Drury (TM), with Brenda-Lee receiving the Perpetual Shield for 2023



(Photos above L:R): Liz receives her Award and Tony receives his Award, with a photo shot of Faby in action
Jill Drury, Tournament Manager

Tournaments Coming Up

4 Days of AC, 26-29 October, Sawtell. Entries close 16 October.

ACA Handicap GC Doubles and Singles Championships, 23-27 October, Twin City, Albury. Entry via ACA website.

CNSW (AC) Bronze, 28-29 October, Canberra. Entries close 20 October.

CNSW Gateball Teams And Doubles, 27-29 October, Newcastle. Entries close 20 October.

CNSW (AC) (9 & Over Hcp) Singles, 6-8 November, Canberra. Entries close 27 October.

CNSW (AC) Champions 10-12 November, Tempe. Entries close 3 November.

Maitland PFC Mallets Under Lights (GC), 11 November, Maitland. Entries close 11 October.

CNSW (GC) Under 21 Championships, 18-19 November, Tempe. Entries close 10 November.

CNSW (GC) Champions, 1-3 December. Tempe. Entries close 24 November.

Bookings for the CNSW lawns at Tempe.

CNSW Members who are not members of Cooks River Croquet who wish to play at Tempe on a casual basis can use the Cooks River Lawn Booking system. You will need to be registered to use the system by sending an email to tempelawns@croquet-nsw.org. Lawn fees of \$6 per half day apply. Check out the [Events](#) tab on the [CNSW website](#).