

NEWSLETTER

March 2024

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FLAG FLIES ABOVE MARRICKVILLE

As part of our commitment to recognising and celebrating diversity within our community, Marrickville Croquet Club held its second annual Rainbow Croquet on Monday 19 February – part of the Inner West Council Mardi Gras program. We had a successful morning with about 12 people participating. Unfortunately the afternoon session didn't quite get off the ground due to an alarming amount of weather. However the storm did provide a dramatic backdrop to our very social afternoon tea – all the while waiting, ever hopeful that the weather would clear.

We will be back again next year and would like to extend an invitation to LGBTQI+ members and friends in other clubs to join us in celebrating the Rainbow and Croquet communities. Regardless of the weather it's going to be fun!



SENIORS' WEEK 11-24 MARCH

Is your Club organising an event for Seniors' Week? If so, it would be terrific if you could share your story and your photos with other Clubs by publishing in the Newsletter. This year's theme is "Reach Beyond" which endeavours to encourage Seniors to expand their horizons. Perhaps this is the perfect opportunity to organise a Come & Try event! Please send articles to Liz Friend newsletter@croquet-nsw.org

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

CNSW AGM, 20 March 2024

We hope all clubs will be represented at the CNSW AGM to be held on-line on 20 March at 7:00pm. There will be some turnover of CNSW positions. Our Treasurer Steve Miles will stand down after 5 years in the role. Steve has done an amazing job, and we will miss him greatly. Lorraine Hatfield is standing down from the State Director GC Refereeing role. We have greatly appreciated Lorraine's contribution in this position.

CNSW WEBSITE AND NEW DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM

The agreement with RevSport is proceeding well. The revised CNSW website is planned to go live early April. It is expected to have all the functionality of the current website, plus additional benefits for clubs seeking to use the system. Croquet Australia is also adopting this platform and the data system will integrate at each level, from July 2024.

GC REFEREE TRAINING

Concerns have been raised by several NSW clubs that there are problems with the referee training program, leading to insufficient numbers of GC referees across NSW. Following consultation with senior referees, a paper is being developed by CNSW to put to the National Director Refereeing (GC).

ADVANTAGE GC

Many clubs are trying to work through the changes required for playing advantage GC. There is still some confusion and it is proposed to hold an on-line forum with clubs to clarify the issues.

STRATEGIES FOR GROWING MEMBERSHIP

CNSW was advised from a statewide survey, that 80% of clubs are interested in growing their membership – and we have included this as one of the CNSW goals, to assist clubs. A small working group of Liz Friend, Bob Berry (Chatswood) and Fidy Westgarth have been working together to identify key issues for growing numbers of croquet players. It is noted that strategies at club level involve both recruitment of new members as well as retention of current members.

A workshop was held late-February, with members of Hunter Club Hub, to help them develop useful strategies for their own clubs. See the report from the workshop later in this newsletter.

Keep enjoying your croquet.

Best wishes

Fidy Westgarth, CNSW Board

CNSW APPOINTMENTS

In response to recent calls of Expressions of Interest, CNSW is very pleased to announce that Janine Crellin (Taree CC) has been appointed as the State Director for Refereeing (GC), and Andrew Bissett (Forster CC) has been appointed as the State Coordinator for Coaching (GC). It is appreciated that you both nominated for these important roles.

REMINDER: ACCESS TO CLUBS' PUBLIC LIABILITY CERTIFICATES OF PLACEMENT

The Certificate of Placement (Certificate of Currency) for your Club's Public Liability Policy is available for download on the Croquet Australia web site <https://croquet-australia.com.au/certificates-of-placement/>

LIVE STREAMING OF CROQUET NSW EVENTS

The CNSW Board has agreed to a trial of live streaming of the final day of the Men's Golf championship on Sunday 7 April, and the Open Golf championship on Monday 22 April, both from the CNSW headquarters at Tempe. The live streaming is to be undertaken by [Happy Cam Sports](#) and will be available free on the Happy Cam Sports YouTube account (just use the YouTube search function) and on the CNSW Facebook page. Streaming will be the semi-finals and the finals of each event, commencing at 8am.

Following the trial, the CNSW Board will consider the merits of any future live streaming of CNSW events based on the quality of the telecast, any technical challenges, the audience participation, and cost.

2024 EIRE CUP

The Eire Cup (AC) will be played in Hobart from 13-17 March 2024.

Please wish all members of the team the best as NSW seeks to defend the title won in Melbourne in 2023.

Stephen Richards, Chair, CNSW AC Selection Committee



Back row (L:R) Stephen Pearce (Canberra), Jim Nicholls (Wagga Wagga), Pete Landrebe (Cammeray), Tim Murphy (Canberra), and Helena Panasewycz (Cooks River).

Front row (L:R) Rosie Landrebe (Cammeray), Joanne Brown (Cammeray), Diane Scott (Wollongong), Kerri-Ann Organ (Canberra). Absent: Mike Gidding (Ballina). Go Team!



SAWTELL HOLDS A 'COME & TRY DAY'

Sawtell Croquet Club advertised their Come & Try Day describing the opportunity as *"Discover the strategic charm of croquet at Sawtell Croquet Club's "Come and Try Day" on February 18th. Enjoy the leisurely garden atmosphere while engaging in friendly competition. Experience the precision, skill, and strategic thinking that make croquet a delightful and intriguing game. Join us for a day of fun and discover a potential new passion."*



The day was a great success. It was a lot of fun and quite a lot of laughter for participants and members alike.

This is a great way to forge new friendships and introduce others to croquet.

LISMORE CROQUET CLUB CELEBRATES 90+2 YEARS - THE REBUILD AND OPENING OF OUR CLUBHOUSE, OCTOBER 2023



The reason behind 90+2 delayed celebrations was due to Covid, then the February 2022 flood which devastated Lismore. Our Croquet Club was heavily impacted. But, like the strong women who founded the club in 1928, we too stand strong, as one. Without our team of members and the support of surrounding Clubs this may not have been possible. Celebrations started Monday 23 October in 39.4-degree heat, and the winners were Phyllis Waters and Muriel Northfield. Runners-up were Barry Waters and Jan Allen. Tuesday the 24th saw similar temperatures and the Ricochet Doubles Competition was postponed to a cooler day and the winners were Phyllis Waters and Jan Allen, and the runners-up were Barry Waters and Joyce Perry. Wednesday the 25th was Official Opening and the day started at 4pm in 39-degree heat. Our MC, Linda Perry-Pollard, opened the celebrations by thanking everyone involved and introducing the dignitaries and our President Jan Allen, who spoke about her personal historical memories “as a little girl hanging over the Croquet fields fence”, watching the ladies in white play, not realising she too would be one when she grew up. The dignitaries and guest speakers attending were Kevin Hogan (Federal MP), Steve Krieg (Lismore Mayor), Jenny Dowell JP OAM, and Mark Somerville (Patron). Elaine McCormack, the retired President, spoke on various historical events and the special guests’ ongoing support of the Club. Janelle Saffin, State MP, MLA, was unable to attend due to illness, but staff members attended. After all speeches were finished, we moved onto a Toast to our Club by Deborah Matten, Vice-Captain, and with glasses raised it was time for the important cutting of our cake with Fay Ross, Captain, and Dorris Green, a Life Member, (photo at left)



then the celebrations began. As time passed so did the closing of the day, members cleaned up then sat and reminisced with a glass or two of bubbly, which was well deserved. On Thursday 26th, our Friendship Day, with a start time of 9.30am, we were joined by Byron Bay, Ballina Inc, Cherry St, Alstonville, and Casino. There were Golf Croquet games, fun lawn games, with prizes, lucky door and raffles. Prizes were donated from businesses throughout Lismore. The day ended at 2.30pm. A good day with lots of laughter was had by all. Thanks go to all Clubs for your gifts we received and helping us celebrate our milestone. On Friday 27th, our Tradies vs. Council Barefoot Golf Croquet Day, organised by Julie Spencer, showed our appreciation to all who helped in the rebuild. This was postponed until a Wednesday afternoon, Lismore City Council Workers and Tradies from various organisations helped us celebrate with lots of laughter, food, drinks and photos. Saturday 28th was our Come & Try Day, and even though only a small number of people turned up, was still a successful day. From Lismore Croquet Club to all who have helped and celebrated **WE THANK YOU**.

(left: Friendship Day, and below, the tradies’ boots)



COUTTS CROSSING AND WOOLGOOLGA CLUBS VISIT GOVERNMENT HOUSE



On her visit to Coutts Crossing Croquet Club last October, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of NSW, invited the club to travel down to Sydney to play a match on the lawns of Government House. And so, the “Governor’s Challenge” was born. The inaugural Governor’s Challenge was played on Sunday 4 February, an open day where the public are invited to picnic on the beautiful grounds of Government House.

The teams from Coutts Crossing and Woolgoolga competed for the trophy, playing two doubles and two singles matches (all advantage handicap). After some fierce shots and lots of laughter the result was a draw – a win for advantage Croquet. The Governor kindly took time to watch the games and chat with the players and supporters.

After the competition the Governor presented the Trophy on the Arcade of Government House. The teams were accompanied by their local State Members, Richie Williams, and Gurmesh Singh. It is believed that they both had a small wager on the outcome. We even made it into Hansard as Richie addressed Parliament about the event.

We all enjoyed a light lunch with the Governor and her partner Mr Wilson, and then had the privilege of being shown around historic sections of Government House that are not open the public. An incredible experience.

The rest of the afternoon was spent leisurely on the lawns, inviting spectators to come and have a try. Many took up the offer and were given contact details for their local clubs. Our supporters also got to have a game.

This was a wonderful weekend, and we are already talking about the return match.

A big thanks to all the players, our supporters, our local members and above all the Governor and her fantastic staff.



(L:R) Team Coutts Crossing: Simon Cook, Helyn Davison, Marilyn Richmond and Paul Schofield, and Team Woolgoolga: Sue Bryan, Marge Haines, Annabelle Geddes and Jenny Charnock.

GROWING MEMBERSHIP WORKSHOP, TORONTO CLUB HUB, 26 FEBRUARY

Representatives from six of the Hunter Hub croquet clubs participated in a Workshop on 26 February, held at Toronto Croquet Club. The workshop was arranged to assist clubs seeking to further grow their membership, as identified from a CNSW survey of NSW croquet clubs.

The participants shared their ideas about barriers to growth, as well as initiatives that have worked well for increasing membership. As well as recruiting new members, the importance of retaining current members was stressed and a range of retention strategies were identified. At the end of the day, participants left with a shortlist of do-able initiatives relevant to their own club environment, to put to their club committees. Not all the clubs needed to build their membership numbers – and the experience of these clubs was also of value, shared with all participants in group discussion.

Growing Membership (cont.)

We were especially grateful to have the assistance of Bob Berry from Chatswood Croquet Club, both for the development of the Workshop program and background papers, and for his oversight of the Workshop. Bob has been a champion for membership growth at Chatswood, at a time of declining growth and threats of non-renewal of their local government lease. Over the last 3 years, Chatswood Club has grown from 55 to 91 members.

Special thanks to Marion Davies, the Hub Coordinator, who arranged the use of Toronto clubhouse, and provided afternoon tea for the group.



Those who attended this initial workshop were:

Steve Thornton (Maitland CC), Margaret Rose, Catherine Pollock, Nancy Ainsworth and Marion Davies (Toronto CC), Jan Puckeridge and Les Guzowski (Nelson Bay CC), Rhonda MacDiarmid (EDSAAC), Scott Davis and Lesley Gill (Newcastle National Park CC), and Peter Smith (Myall Park CC)

If this proves to be a useful exercise for clubs seeking to increase their membership, the Workshop and guidance will be offered to other interested Hubs and Clubs.

Liz Friend and Fidy Westgarth, Directors, CNSW

WINNERS ARE GRINNERS



Mike receives the trophy from Rosemary

3 & UNDER (AC) SINGLES, 3-4 February, Tempe

16 Players, including most of the CNSW Eire Cup Team, converged on Tempe for this year's event. Initially there were four blocks with the top two players from each block progressing to the finals.

In the first quarter final Mike Gidding, defeated Stephen Pearce in a nailbiter 22/21. Tim Murphy did it a bit easier, defeating Robert Elliott 21/11. The Landrebe's (Peter & Rosemary) had a close battle with Peter just getting home 26/20. In the final quarter final Trevor Bassett was too good for Mike Hughes winning 26/11.

In the semi-finals Mike Gidding continued his unbeaten run defeating Tim Murphy 26/16 and in the other semi-final Trevor Bassett had a blinder, winning 26/0 with a TP against Peter Landrebe.

The final saw Mike Gidding remaining undefeated in the event winning 26/17 against Trevor Bassett.

Mike played very well against a high-quality field of AC players.

Thanks to the Tournament Manager and Tournament Referee. Without these people and other volunteers, the event would not be able to proceed.

5 & UNDER (AC) MIXED DOUBLES, 17-18 February, Tempe

Six pairs contested this year's event in a round robin where the team with the most wins would be the winner.

The final results were: Rosemary Landrebe/Stephen Pearce 4 wins 1 loss net hoops +45, Joanne Brown/Jim Nicholls 4 wins 1 loss net hoops +6, Kerri-Ann Organ/Tim Murphy 3 wins 2 losses net hoops +48, Helen Panasewycz/Peter Landrebe 3 wins 2 losses net hoops +14, Nerida Taylor/Robert Elliott 1 win 4 losses net hoops -47, and Diane Scott/John Bartrop 0 wins 5 losses net hoops -66.

Congratulations to Rosemary and Stephen for winning the event after a close shave in the final game where they won 23/22 against Kerri-Ann and Tim, which would have changed the result.

Thanks to the Tournament Manager and Tournament Referee and other volunteers. Without these people the event would not be able to proceed.

TOURNAMENTS COMING UP

16th Wagga Annual (GC) Carnival (Hcp 10 & under), 13-16 March, Wagga Wagga.

Orange City (AC) Spring Carnival, 14-17 March, Orange.

3 days of Ricochet 14-16 March, Sawtell.

Maitland Sweet Pea (GC), 16-18 March, Maitland.

3 days of Association, 17-19 March, Sawtell.

CNSW Women's (GC) Open Singles Championships, 22-25 March, Tempe. Entries close 15 March.

CNSW Men's (GC) Open Singles Championships, 5-7 April, Tempe. Entries Close 29 March.

CNSW (AC) Bronze Singles (hcp. 14 or higher) 9-11 April, Canberra. Entries close 29 March.

Autumn (GC) Carnival (over 10 plays off 10), 19-22 March, Forster.

Jamberoo (GC) Autumn Carnival (hcp -6 to 10), 3-6 April, Jamberoo.

Mosman (AC) Bash, 5-7 April, Mosman.

CNSW (GC) Division 3 Singles, 9 & 10 July, Ballina/Byron Bay/Lismore. Entries close 2 July. (Flyer attached)

CNSW (GC) Division 3 Doubles, 11-13 July, Ballina/Byron Bay/Lismore. Entries close 2 July. (Flyer attached)

CNSW HUBS CALENDAR

Players are reminded to watch out for Hub events that they would like to be involved in. Please see the calendar below:

TORONTO HUB - EVENT	LOCATION	AC	GC	RC	GB
SENIORS WEEK – COME AND TRY	TORONTO	15 Mar	15 Mar	15 Mar	15 Mar
TACTICS – Chris Williamson	TORONTO		20 Apr		
FRIENDSHIP DAY	TORONTO			26 Apr	
COACHING – Pam Gentle	TORONTO	30 Apr			
DIV 1 COACHING – Trevor Black	TORONTO		21 May		
COACHING/TACTICS– Ray Chapman	TORONTO			30 May	
COACHING/TACTICS– Ray Chapman	TORONTO			31 May	
COACHING – Brenda Wild	TORONTO		4 June		

CONTACT MARION DAVIES marion.dawn6@gmail.com if you want to attend any of the above events

COUTTS CROSSING HUB - EVENT	LOCATION	AC	GC	RC	GB
INTRODUCTION TO RICOCHET – Simon Cook	COUTTS CROSSING			26 Mar	
RUNNING TOURNAMENTS – David Stanton	COUTTS CROSSING		5 Apr		
ADVANCED COACHING – Pam Gentle	COUTTS CROSSING		TBA		
MARKETING/SOCIAL MEDIA – TBA	COUTTS CROSSING				

CONTACT PAUL SCHOFIELD riverfields2@gmail.com if you wish to attend any of the above events

STRATHFIELD HUB - EVENT	LOCATION	AC	GC	RC	GB
WORKSHOP					TBA
WORKSHOP – Tournament Programming			TBA		

CONTACT PETULA SHUN petulashun@hotmail.com if you wish to attend any of the above events

NOWRA

EVENT	LOCATION	AC	GC	RC	GB
WORKSHOP – Tactics/Coaching - Ray Chapman				27 May	
WORKSHOP – Tactics/Coaching - Ray Chapman				28 May	

CONTACT DOUG CORNISH cornish@shoalhaven.net.au if you want to attend any of the above events

CANBERRA

	LOCATION	AC	GC	RC	GB
Regional Event - Hosting Visit by Hyde Park CC	Canberra	17 March			
Regional Event – Coaching Div.2-4 (Trevor Black)	Canberra		26-27 March		
Assistance to other Clubs (GC)	Sthn Highlands		(Feb/March TBC)		
Referee Accreditation (GC)	Canberra		(Feb to June TBC)		
Regional Event – WORKSHOP Tournament Managers (David Stanton)	Canberra	(12 April)			
Assistance to other Clubs – (GB) Coaching	Sthn Highlands				(Apr to Jun TBC)
Assistance to other Clubs – (GC) Coaching	Griffith		(Apr to June TBC)		
Assistance to other Clubs – (GC) Coaching	Griffith		(6 Dec)		

CONTACT PETER FREER pfreer@netspeed.com.au if you want to attend any of the above events.

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.

CROQUET EVENTS CALENDAR 2024 <https://croquetscores.com/2024>