



May 2015

This month:

We include a report from the Executive meeting on 23 and 24 May 2015; the announcement of the Golf Croquet World Teams Event in 2016; and learn about the SDO's junior sports programme.

From the Executive

The Executive met on the weekend of the 23rd and 24th May.

Baubre Murray (Finance Audit & Risk) noted that Croquet NZ should make a small surplus for this financial year. The budget for 2015/16 was approved which showed a likely small deficit for the year. Baubre noted that the surplus this year and the deficit next season should balance each other out, and the major contributor to this was having no international team expenditure this year and two international team events in the next financial year (GC Trans-Tasman and GC World teams competition).

The Executive Director has been along to several SportNZ presentations about their new Community Sport strategy and the new investment criteria. Considerable time and effort will be spent before 31 July (application closing date) to complete the application form to the best of our ability to try and continue to attract investment from SportNZ. We have to be realistic though as the new strategy focusses heavily on young people (5-18yrs) and most of CNZ members are not in this age bracket.

The teams for both the GC Trans-Tasman and the GC World Teams competition have now been selected (congratulations to all the players selected) - see later this issue for details of our GC World team.

The Laws committee has decided to recognise Australia referees in New Zealand:

"Any person who is registered by the Australian Croquet Association as an AC Umpire or Referee or a GC Referee and who is a full levy-paying member of a Croquet club affiliated through a district Association to Croquet New Zealand, may apply to be granted the equivalent status in New Zealand. Registration in New Zealand will expire after three years, or on the expiry date of the Australian qualification, whichever is the earlier, after which the qualification will need to be renewed by the normal Croquet New Zealand process.

Croquet New Zealand regards the holding of refereeing qualifications simultaneously in more than one country as purely a matter for the individual concerned."

The Organisation Development Committee (led Annie Henry) is working on a plan to spread the word about our key tournaments more widely and more effectively next season. All day on Sunday the 24th was a planning meeting led by the Org Dev committee to update Croquet NZ's vision of the sport in 5yrs and 10yrs time and what was needed by way of resources and actions to help move from where we are now to this new vision of the future.

CNZ Awards & Qualifications:

Bronze Merit Award:

Jace Hobbs Nelson -Hinemoa

Silver Merit Award-

Vince Neall – Rose Gardens

Jace Hobbs Nelson -Hinemoa

Sport Development Officer

New Zealand team for the Golf Croquet World Teams Championship England 15-21 May 2016

The GC Selection panel is proud to select a very strong and experienced team for this event.

Chris Clarke (captain)
Jenny Clarke
Duncan Dixon
Phillip Drew

Reserve: Jared Keeman
Manager: Mike Crashley



Chris Clarke



Jenny Clarke



Phillip Drew



Duncan Dixon

We have recently published profiles for the Team – See April 2015 Croquet Matters

In 2012, the team of Dixon (c), Crashley, Drew & McIntosh came a very creditable 2nd and pushed the Egyptian team to the limit in the final.

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CNZ Coaching 2015/16 Season

There are two additions to the player development pathways for the 2015-16 season; **Primary Squad** and **GC Squad**. These additions respond to development squad nominations for primary school age participants (the existing group dynamics of the Youth Squads is not appropriate), and a GC Squad to bridge U21 Development and GC High Performance.

Last year's Bronze Silver and Gold Squad programmes will be extended in the 2015-16 season to 3 groups of each across the country to improve accessibility for the croquet community. Details for these self-selected squads (open to all CNZ affiliated players) will once again be available in the CNZ Yearbook and promoted on the CNZ website from September (approximately).

CNZ Club Coaching will be provided by arrangement between Associations and CNZ this season. If your Club or Association would like a CNZ facilitated coaching session this season (AC and/or GC), please register your interest with Greg Bryant admin@croquet.org.nz.

This season's offerings include **Handicap play** – effective use of extra turns (bisques) for either code. This provides all CNZ affiliated players with an opportunity to pick up some useful tips for club **Arthur Ross Memorial** and **Gold and Silver Stars** competitions (events that all clubs are encouraged to facilitate). Where ever possible, ½ day club coaching sessions will be provided around scheduled appointments on a suitable date. Please register your Club or Association's interest with Greg, sooner rather than later!

Youth Croquet Nominations:

CNZ is seeking nominations from any club for members up to age 21 for the Primary Squad and Youth Development Squads 2015-16.

Nominees will not have participated in any CNZ Development Squads previously. They will hold a current handicap card and be financial members of your club. When nominating, please include the participant's age, current handicap and contact details including an email address and any previous achievements. Primary Squad participants must be accompanied by a guardian at the squad coaching session – an early season 1-day event in central NZ (Date and venue to be confirmed). Please forward your nominations to admin@croquet.org.nz.

The Player Development Pathways chart is attached at the end of the newsletter

In case you have wondered what the Sports Development Officer has been up to in his trips around the country – the following article reproduced by kind permission of Bob Alman from Croquetworld.com tells us so much. Greg – we are in awe of the extent of your development work and look forward to learning of your continuing progress. Editor

Can New Zealand mass produce the croquet champions of the future?

by Bob Alman, thanks to Greg Bryant
photos courtesy of Greg Bryant
Posted May 2, 2015

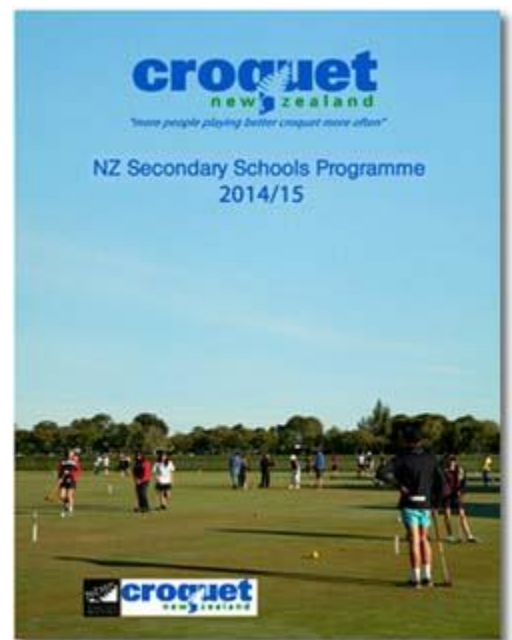
Hard work, persistence and patience are the only path to good long-term results in many endeavours, and especially in the work of finding and developing young croquet players who become champions of the sport. Greg Bryant of New Zealand won the national championship of New Zealand after 30 years of playing and then repeated that feat twice more,

consecutively. So when he took on the job of recruiting and training secondary school students, he was prepared to wait for a pay-off that might not be seen until a Shield contest in the 2020s.

When Croquet New Zealand formalized in 2012 their intention to increase membership with a mission statement aimed at having "more people playing better croquet more often," Greg came forward with the notion of conducting a national survey of croquet clubs to spot relevant trends.

With the results of that survey, Bryant could see exactly what was happening in the croquet population of New Zealand: baby boomers were predictably being recruited on schedule, to grow the overall numbers by about ten percent

annually. But elderly players were just as predictably passing away or passing out of the sport. So the net result was growth of somewhere around one percent: a ten percent gain in recruitment yearly was accompanied by



This Secondary Schools Programme brochure features a photo of the 2013 Second Schools Final held in Palmerston North, distributed through New Zealand's Regional Sports Trusts. The slogan, "More people playing better croquet more often," is taken from CNZ's mission statement.

a nine percent drop-out rate from all causes, death included. So Bryant saw that "all that work of recruitment and training was being done just to keep the national organization standing still."

As the official Sports Development Officer of CNZ, Bryant thought a bigger investment in youth development in local clubs would have the greatest long-term positive impact on the overall health of the sport. "It's not too difficult to get a lot of kids on a croquet lawn, but what we need to do is provide the best of them with opportunities and support to get really good." According to Greg, they call that "kicking butt." Those are the kids that will continue and compete well in the annual national singles handicap event.

Like many national associations, CNZ has hosted an annual Secondary Schools Competition for many years, but the players in those events don't stick around for more play, competition and training, so it has not produced a noticeable result over time in the demographics of New Zealand croquet.



Most of these youngsters in the 2014 Youth Squad were selected from among the finalists in the Secondary Schools event.

Bryant realized that creating and encouraging an elite corps of players from the best of them just might do the trick--developing players who would have a croquet career of more than half a century, rather than just a decade or two--competitors who might even get onto the New

Zealand Shield team within a few years of hitting their first Dawson.

The Elite Youth Squad and the Secondary School Competition

The New Zealand Youth Squad was not tied to the Secondary Schools program in the past.

Adam and Mary-Kate from Taranaki are three-time doubles representatives at the national secondary schools finals, where they finished twice in third place.



Now the elite Squad absorbs, encourages, and develops the best young players in the Secondary Schools competition. After only two years, this method of recruiting and organizing seems to be working well. According to Greg, "Under 21 memberships in local clubs are over 200 percent up, and croquet is appearing more often in regional secondary school sports calendars; young players are becoming more evident in tournaments in both Association and Golf Croquet."

What's most different--and most challenging--about Bryant's approach is not just the creation of the elite Squads, but his personal commitment to sticking with the work long term and making sure the results are self-perpetuating at the local level. Greg explained to me, "I run the Secondary Schools program with up to four of our 20 regional croquet associations each season--which makes a five-year cycle for me to get around to all of them.



Hemi McLaren and Sam Trelor were winners of the 2014 NZ Secondary School event.

Hemi McLaren shows the excellent form that allows him to coach other students in the elite 2015 Secondary Schools program that feeds selections to the elite Youth Squads. Hemi is also "winning" as a local coach, with one of his teams making the finals in 2015.

"First I need to get the local infrastructure and relationships in place with the New Zealand Regional Sports Trusts--all 17 of them--and in local schools as well as local clubs. I think it may take a couple of cycles for some regions to take on the processes and have a sustainable programme they maintain on their own. By then, some of our current youth will be working-age club members."

But won't the young players drop out to begin a career?

Bryant fully expects the attrition rate to be at least as much as in other age group, as many of the young players will be away from the sport for a time, to do advanced education, perhaps to move to another town, to work hard getting a career started, to start a family. But he says, from personal experience, "Good players don't travel too far from the game at any age. People like to do what they know they're good at doing."



Inglewood High doubles representatives for 2013 don't repress their enthusiasm.

With his elite Youth Squads, Bryant hopes to create the kind of unforgettable experiences they'll want to resume even if they have to "drop out" of croquet for as long as a decade.

Greg speaks from personal experience. He knew he was pretty good 30 years ago, when he first started out. He took the usual detours through other sports, including an



Cheering on their mates in the NZ U21 Squad in an event preceding the 2015 WCF Under 21 World Championship are Felix Webby, Liam Reeves, Lachy Hughes, George Coulter, and Jez Reeves.

obsession with sidecar motorcycles. But now he's at the top of Croquet New Zealand and consistently ranked in the top ten in the world. He never looks back. He still wants to win, and he is still able to win, in his 50s.

That's a huge selling point with the Regional Sports Trusts he works with, who are charged with promoting and supporting increased participation in all kinds of sports: How could you go wrong in a sport that's good for a lifetime, in which you can win major championships into what those teenagers consider "old age?"

The same kind of talking points can be used on the School Sports Coordinators in the individual schools Greg lobbies to get into the program. In meetings with those coordinators, Greg knows they get credit not only for having their school represented in an additional sports competition, but also for enticing into croquet the boys and girls not currently participating in other sports. It's a great sales pitch, and it's working to get the program started and supported locally.

Bryant has committed himself to getting his elite Squads established in four of the 20 regions each year--which makes a five-year cycle. By "established," he means with a healthy representation of young players in the local programs who continue and self-replicate. In some cases, the young players themselves are taking on the essential coaching roles locally. In most cases, the local clubs are also involved in that role.

Regular club play is an essential element of Bryant's program, and the standards he sets for advancing from Year One to Year Two in the Squad includes club and association participation. "Where there are groups of young people," Greg says, "they naturally tend to spend more time together than with other club members, but the relationships they form in those local clubs are very important."

Bryant's long-term goal for the program--in ten years--is to have at least four doubles pairs from each of the regions eligible for squad selection out of the annual national competition. That adds up to an elite squad of 160 competitors each year.



Jez Reeves has mastered the jump shot, always a popular feature of coaching and play and an entertainment for spectators.

Josh Freeth and Felix Webby contested the final of the 2014 NZ Under 21 Golf Croquet Championship and went on to become Gold and Bronze medallists at the 2015 WCF U21 Worlds Championship, also played in New Zealand.

NZ SECONDARY SCHOOLS NATIONAL GOLF CROQUET COMPETITION
club - association - national finals

Doubles event
Doubles competitions are to include 2 players representing the same school. Where school students can be paired with a secondary school student from the same region association.

Croquet club tuition
Students can attend their local program club for coaching advice and support. All equipment (including mallets) are provided by your local club.

Conditions
Up to 4 representative schools from each region association can be entered into the National Final. National Finals are to be held at the end of the year of the event (2015).

Contact
Your local croquet club or regional association. Go to www.nzcroquet.org.nz for details, or contact CROQUET NZ only 0800 508 0000 croquet@nzcroquet.org.nz

GET CROQUETED
Secondary Schools Golf Croquet Workshop (including year 7 onward)
4 October 2014, 10am-4pm
Nelson-Hinemoa Croquet Club
Halifax Street, Nelson

An introductory coaching session with NZ Open and World Series Champion, Greg Bryant

SPORT TASMAN
CONTACT: 027 222 5024 4@tasman@postmail.com
Alicia Henry (03) 538 0620 alicia58@thg.co.nz
Neil Keegan (03) 546 6202 neil.keegan@tear.net.nz

These posters are distributed to Secondary Schools via the 17 New Zealand Regional Sports Trusts.

What that could mean to local clubs is an enormous shift in the demographics of the sport as well as the raw numbers of players in local croquet clubs. And such a shift could also become self-replicating, with a new "crop" of

good performers each year: "The best encouragement young players can have," according to Greg, "is a group of new players coming through to challenge them."

Ideally, when the program is fully developed, there will be in many local clubs "cells" of younger players who compete with one another in either or both major codes, but also within the club as well as regionally and nationally.

Competition for Squad members begins locally but naturally expands to a grander national affair. "Our CNZ Under-21 Golf Croquet tournament used to be exclusively for the Squad, but now it's an open tournament on our national calendar. Golf Croquet is the first game they learn and our current training and development priority, but now they're wanting an Under 21 Association Croquet event as well."



Greg Bryant started winning New Zealand's national championship of Association Croquet in 2012, repeating in 2013 and 2014, beardless throughout.

Bob Alman Croquet World Online

Tournaments

Point Chevalier Croquet Club

7th RPM (mallets) Winter Tournament

Handicap Doubles

Saturday 30 & Sunday 31 May 2015

Nelson Hinemoa Croquet Club

Queen's Birthday Weekend Tournament

30 May - 1 June 2015

From the Regions

Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui

While we have a policy of not including obituaries in Croquet Matters on the grounds that they could easily overtake the essence of the newsletter, as always policies can be flexible and we include this obit. because Jim was on the cover of the yearbook for 2012-2013 Ed

Obituary: At ANZAC weekend the Levin Club of CM-W recorded with sadness the death of Jim Arthurs, by far the club's oldest member! He took up AC when he was about 80 and grew quickly to love the game! In the last several years his eyesight and hearing both gradually failed but until halfway through the season just ended he was still hooping and roqueting successfully; in a way neither he nor anyone else could understand his body seemed to sense where the ball was! Jim had a profound influence on me - he spent an off-season a couple of years ago trying to teach me the rudiments of AC, the last time me we played together he spent most of the game teaching me the finer points of peeling and he tried to help with the attitude with which I play!!

Jim was a prisoner of war for four years during WW2; he seldom talked of that period in his life but loaned several of us volumes of his wartime

diaries. He did not want a funeral, as he said:
'out of respect for my mates lying out in the desert.'

The accompanying photo gives a good idea of the Jim we will remember - fit, a true gentleman, keen, absorbed in croquet... The photo is from the 2011 Triton Hearing Tournament at Rose Gardens; it was on the front page of the 2012-2013 year book and was taken by Murray Wilson of the Manawatu Standard. Jim and André were in the same event, Jim was the oldest and André [at 15] the youngest in the tournament.



*Bob Eyles
Secretary CM-W and Levin Club Captain]*

Croquet Taranaki

New Plymouth Croquet Club

There was a good turnout for the end of season shared lunch at the New Plymouth Croquet Club in April. The competition results for the season were announced and trophies presented.

Not all winners were able to attend the function, the full list below.



Photo: Nola Bachelor, Marie Mitchell, Dawn Smeaton patron, Sandy Mitchell, Desma Gaffney, Peter Bachelor, John Muir, Bonnie Johnstone, Bruce McLeod.

Association Croquet

Handicap doubles Marie Mitchell and John Muir

Arthur Ross-Ewing Cup Lorraine Hinz

C grade 14-18 Lisa Park

B grade 10-14 Marie Mitchell

Intermediate grade 4-9 Felix Webby

A grade 0-3 Margaret Muir

Premier -1 and below John Muir

Open Championship John Muir

Golf Croquet

Levels 0-4 championship Nola Bachelor

Levels Intermediate 5-7 Sandy Mitchell

Levels Novice 8-12 Desma Gaffney

Doubles championship Bruce McLeod and Verley Cooper

Handicap 0-4 Peter Bachelor (men's trophy)

Handicap 0-4 runner up Nola Buchan (ladies' trophy)

Handicap 5-7 Bonnie Johnstone (King family Trophy)

Ron Johnston Memorial cup Bruce Horsup

*Susan Burgess
President NPCC*

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Marlborough Croquet Association

BROOKLYN (GOLF CROQUET)

On May 3rd the Blenheim based Brooklyn Croquet Club held its Annual Golf Croquet Championships. The previous date which had been set aside was postponed due to lawn upgrading work. However as luck would have it the 3rd dawned beautifully and with temperatures of 24°, sunshine and no wind, Marlborough's weather excelled.

Within our club we have a lot of social players so it was wonderful to have a good number of entries particularly in the Primary and Intermediate Grades, with many games being hard fought and eventually won on the 13th hoop.

The results say it all with the Primary Grade having a four-way countback to decide the winner and the Intermediates being decided on a countback between two players. Final results were:

Primary Grade:	Dale Simpson	winner
	Mary Best	runner up
Intermediate Grade:	Farquhar Wilkinson	winner
	John Best	runner up
Senior Grade	Jeff Sawyer	winner
	Basil Amyes	runner up
Premiere Grade	Margaret Heaney,	winner
	(only person in grade)	

Everyone enjoyed the day and we are waiting for the 2015/16 Season for further fun and learning. Our Club is fortunate that we do not close over winter, so that leaves lots of time for practice ahead of us.

Margaret Heaney President



*Brooklyn Club's Grade Champions for 2015
Left to right: Dale Simpson, Farquhar Wilkinson,
Jeff Sawyer, Margaret Heaney*

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South Canterbury Croquet Association

South Canterbury V Otago Inter-provincial Golf Croquet Match Played on Sunday 12 April 2015

This annual fixture is held at the Awamoa Gardens Croquet Club in Oamaru and the trophy is a locally-crafted Oamaru Stone penguin named Percy.

The Otago team representatives were Ann Sharp (captain), Nairn Smith, Murray Goldsmith, Lynley Browne, Jeanette Leifting, Barbara Ward, Gaye McGee and Shirley Ungemuth.

South Canterbury players were Brent Cleveland (captain), Edmund Fordyce, Oscar Baird-Gosling, Tom Weir, Audrey Leath, Logan McCorkindale, Jenny Wilson and Annette Anderson.

On paper the teams appeared fairly even, but at the end of the day the scores were not! South Canterbury had a convincing win of 30.5 games to Otago's 9.5 wins. This match is always the last official event on the South Canterbury calendar and is a fitting end to the season.



Croquet Auckland

Orewa Club

Orewa Croquet Club celebrates Closing Day

Members at Orewa Croquet Club celebrated their Closing Day last Saturday following a very successful 2014-15 Season for the Club.

Highlights included a most successful 'have-a-go' day held in February where over 40 members of the public took to the lawns to try their hand (and swing) at hitting the croquet balls through the hoops, resulting in 10 new members for the Club with more deciding. The Club is now the largest Club in the Auckland region with 90 members and one of the biggest in New Zealand. Club President, Julie Parry, said "The club has a great spirit which is evident from the number of players that we have coming along to club days. We feel privileged to have such a vibrant club in our community".

The Club also hosted the 110th Auckland Croquet Association singles and doubles tournaments during the season which featured a number of top players. The Evelyn Page Retirement Village Golf Croquet, the Maygrove Village Association Croquet and the Forest Funeral Services tournaments, which were all over-subscribed by players from around the country.

A good cross-section of Club members also excelled for the Club with Chris Smith winning the Auckland Region Singles Handicap tournament and the right to represent the Region at the Arthur Ross Memorial tournament held in Wellington in March. Robert Letcher made a clean sweep of the Golf Croquet Club competitions during the Season winning trophies for the Opening Day Doubles (with playing partner Ann Strasser), the Handicap Singles and the 4-7 Handicap Championship tournament, saying "These are the very first trophies that I have won so this has to be my best year yet".

Other Club results included:

Golf Croquet:

- Closing Day Doubles: Trish Ellis & Elizabeth Ingram
- Handicap Doubles: Vern Macartney & Margaret Rankin
- 8-12 Handicap Championship: Paula Knight
- Novice Cup: Bernice Lang
- Points Trophy: Carol Pugh

Association Croquet:

- Opening Day Doubles: Pixie Jones-Meredew & Chris Smith
- Closing Day Doubles: Keith Wallace & Julie Parry
- Senior/Junior combined Doubles: Pixie Jones-Meredew & Linda Stuckey
- Ladies Open Handicap: Carol Pugh
- Men's Open Handicap: Chris Smith
- Open Championship: Carol Pugh
- A Grade Championship (0-3): Keith Wallace
- B Grade Championship (10-16): Chris Smith

The Club remains open for play during winter and full details of the Winter Play schedule.



Robert Letcher with his haul



Bernice Lang receives her first Golf Croquet trophy the Novice Cup

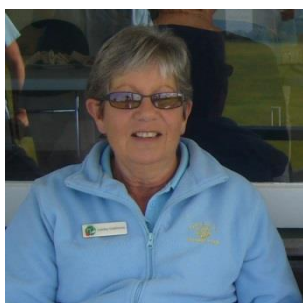


Elizabeth Ingram and Trish Ellis accept their Golf Croquet Closing Day trophy from President Julie Parry (centre)

Keith Wallace receives the A Grade Association Croquet Championship trophy



Incoming President Lesley Dallimore



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Croquet Matters was prepared by the Executive Director, the Sport Development Officer and Pamela George

Miscellaneous

It's all go this year for Mike McClure at Terminator Mallets.. Having started the year with three Nationals and one International he is now in the midst of relocating the Terminator workshop into a commercial/industrial building. Having bought the building pre-Christmas he then had to wait six months for the planning approval and building consent. Andrew Dixon (World famous in Mt Maunganui) worked with Mike on some of the early activity.

Mike is looking forward to having all the gear and office in one place AND as a bonus there is space to park his "Mobile distribution and support unit" for Team Terminator.



Look for Mike's advertisement on the back of the 2014-2015 Year Book.



There will be five more calendars to give away in June. All you need to do to win one of these calendars is

to write with details of what you enjoyed most about your summer of croquet. The first five responses to the Executive Director will be the lucky recipients of these great calendars.

