



## Happy Holidays and New Year!

**Congratulations to Edmund Fordyce** for winning the CNZ U21 Singles with a tough match against **Felix Webby**. **Congratulations to Felix Webby and Alex Bennett** for winning the doubles. It was Felix's second time to be a partner in the winning pair. What accomplishments. Well done to all the winners. It was fantastic to watch everyone play, many who also played in the National Secondary Schools GC Championships in September. It was great to see all the parents and supporters at the U 21 and catch up with them.

On behalf of the Executive and Staff at CNZ, I would like to wish all of you Happy Holidays! Happy Christmas! Happy New Year! May you enjoy the summer and the gifts of the season.

Warm regards,  
*Annie*

President

**This is the last issue of *Croquet Matters* for 2017.  
The next one will be on 20 January 2018.**

This issue's contents are:

- Congratulations to the Winners
- Halberg Awards Nominations
- CNZ U21 National GC Championships
- Profiles of NZ AC World's Players
- Trans-Tasman AC Team
- AC workshops
- GC Coaching Session
- Upcoming articles in the January 2018 edition of *Croquet Matters*

## Congratulations to the Winners

There were some winners that we missed announcing last week and new ones this week. They are:

National Secondary Schools GC Doubles Championship

- **Winners– Kaleb Small & Chris Spittal from Mt Hutt College**
- **Runners Up – Edmund Fordyce and Jacob Smith from Mt Hutt College**
- **Plate Winners– Naomi Turner & Caleb McDonnell from Matamata College**

Australian AC Open Singles

- **Bronze– Jenny Clarke**

National U21 GC Doubles Championship

- **Winners – Felix Webby & Alex Bennett**
- **Runners Up – Kaleb Small and Chris Spittal**
- **Plate Winners – Nathan Bullen and Carlos Mendonca**

National U21 GC Singles Championship

- **Winner – Edmund Fordyce**
- **Runner Up – Felix Webby**
- **Third Place – Kaleb Small**
- **Fourth Place – Charlie Sharpe (AU)**
- **Plate Winner – Grace Mohi**
- **Plate Runner Up – Paul Kaiser**

## Halberg Awards

This is the first year CNZ has submitted nominations for the Halberg Awards. There are 71 nominations for six categories at the 55<sup>th</sup> [Halberg Awards](#) – the nation's pre-eminent event to honour and celebrate sporting achievements by New Zealand teams and athletes in 2017. Twenty seven different sports are represented in the nominations that have been submitted from National Sports Organisations. The nominations go to the Halberg Awards Voting Academy for judging to be shortlisted into finalists.

Sixteen athletes from 12 sports have been put forward for the **Sportsman of the Year** award. The hotly contested category are Aaron Gate (Cycling), **Aiken Hakes (Croquet)**, Beauden Barrett (Rugby Union), Brendon Hartley (Motorsport), Chris Wood (Football), Ethan Mitchell (Cycling), George Bennett (Cycling), Jason Wynyard (Wood Chopping), Joel Henare (Shearing Sports), John Kirkpatrick (Shearing Sports), Kane Williamson (Cricket), Michael Venus (Tennis), Peter Michael (Ice Speed Skating), Robbie Manson (Rowing), Sam Gaze (Cycling), Tom Walsh (Athletics). The winner is eligible for the Supreme Halberg Award.

The **Emerging Talent** award has received 13 nominations for junior athletes who have all been successful on the national and international stages. The Emerging Talent category is designed to assist in a young athletes' quest to become an Olympic, Paralympic and/or World Champion and hopefully one day the Halberg Award. Previous winners have included; Lydia Ko, Sam Webster and Eliza McCartney.

**Emerging Talent:** Anna Leat (Football), Bianca Koper (Taekwon-Do), Chris Arbuthnott (Para swimming), Daniel Hillier (Golf), Ellesse Andrews (Cycling), **Felix Webby (Croquet)**, Hannah Knighton (Triathlon), Josh Armit (Yachting), Kanah Andrews-Nahu (Olympic Weightlifting), Matthew MacDonald (Rowing), Nico Porteous (Freeski), Olivia McTaggart (Athletics), Tiana Metuarau (Netball).

The Halberg Awards judges now have the arduous task of reviewing all the nominations to decide a shortlist of finalists which will be announced in January 2018. The 55<sup>th</sup> Halberg Awards ceremony will be held on Thursday 8 February 2018 at Spark Arena in Auckland and televised live on SKY SPORT. Other awards presented during the ceremony include; New Zealand's Favourite Sporting Moment (public vote category), Sport New Zealand Leadership, Lifetime Achievement and inductees into the Sports Hall of Fame.

The annual Halberg Awards is the major fundraiser for the [Halberg Foundation](#), the charity set up by Olympic champion Sir Murray Halberg (ONZ) in 1963 to enhance the lives of physically disabled young New Zealanders by enabling them to participate in sport and recreation.

**Best to Aiken and Felix!**

### **CNZ U21 GC Championships**

December 16 – 19 Canterbury Association hosted the CNZ U21 GC Championships at the United Club. There were 37 entries in the singles event and 20 doubles pairs. This is a significant increase over last year with 26 entries for the singles and 12 doubles pairs. It is an indication of the growth of the youth development programme, thanks largely to **Greg Bryant**, SDO, and the encouragement of parents, supporters and club members.



The first day started off with a coaching session by Phillip Drew. The doubles started in the afternoon and finished late on Sunday. Singles were played on Monday and Tuesday. Both the doubles and singles started with block play and progressed to KO. The Plate was the consolation event.

The accuracy of play and tactics continued to improve during the tournament. The final of the singles was played between Felix Webby and Edmund Fordyce. Felix controlled the first game with a 7 – 1 win. The second game Edmund changed tactics and won narrowly, 7 – 5. The third game it appeared that Edmund continued to lift his game and won 7 – 2. Both Edmund and Felix are very strong players and it was an exciting match to watch! **Well done Edmund!**

A special thank you to Chris Clarke for a well-managed tournament.

## **New Zealand Player Profiles for the World's AC Tournament**

### **Edmund Fordyce**



Edmund is 17 years old and plays both Association and Golf Croquet for the Waireka Croquet Club, Ashburton, New Zealand. He was taught to play by his father and began competing at age 11.

In 2014 he joined the NZ Youth Development Squad. In his final year at school, he is aiming for a career in the field of business and economics, ideally combining post-graduate study in England with the chance to play Association Croquet with and against more of the world's best players and at some of the historically important clubs and lawns.

### **John Christie**



John plays both Association and Golf Croquet. He has played in a number of world championships, and is looking forward to playing in Wellington. He enjoys the competitive nature of croquet as well as the fun and fellowship associated with the sport. Other interests include working in the family dairy farming enterprise, gardening and travel.

### **Nelson Morrow**



Nelson started playing croquet in NZ in the early 70's. After leaving for the UK in 1974, Nelson did not pick up a mallet again, this time in the UK, for nearly 20 years. Initially he was an AC player. Now he also plays GC. He has played in many World Championships since his first in 2001. The AC Worlds in Wellington in 2002 was one of his favourites and he hopes this event can match it. For 35 years Nelson had his own Interior Design business in London but 12 years ago he bought a house in an idyllic spot in the North of the North Island in NZ, and started to spend his summers in both countries. Now that he has retired, the relaxed lifestyle of NZ has won his heart and where he has chosen to spend most of the year. His recent successes have included winning the Plate event at the 2015 GC Worlds, the North American AC Open in 2016 and the North Island 2017 GC Doubles Championship. He misses the great croquet scene in the UK and is looking forward to catching up with lots of players he knows from the UK and other parts of the croquet world.

### **Peter Filbee**



Peter lives and works in Hawera, South Taranaki and has been playing croquet for almost 40 years.

He was introduced to the game by his parents. Regrettably his national highlights have been few and far between, but this will be his 4<sup>th</sup> World Championship.

He also plays tennis, squash and snooker. He reads a lot and is a Chartered Accountant by profession.

## Trans Tasman AC Team

Croquet New Zealand is excited to announce the team that will compete in the upcoming Association Croquet Trans-Tasman Series in Australia.

The team is:

### Men

Aiken Hakes  
Chris Shilling  
Josh Freeth  
Greg Bryant

### Women

Alison Robinson  
Jenny Clarke  
Nina Mayard-Husson  
Pamela Fisher

Captain: Greg Bryant  
Manager: Steve Wardle

Congratulations to all players selected and a big thank you to Steve for managing the team.

The team will compete at Wynnum Croquet Club in Brisbane Australia from 23-28 April 2018.

## Association Croquet (AC) Coaching Sessions

Sport Development Officer Greg Bryant held a series of workshops, introducing AC to those new to croquet to the merit awards of bronze, silver and gold. This year's coaching series were held in the Bay of Plenty, Counties-Manukau, Taranaki and Nelson.

All sessions had an average of 8 players for each of the sessions in the four regions. Each of the merit award coaching sessions were two days each. Players have started incorporating what they learned into their play. I'm sure we will see some of them achieving their goals this season—or next.

As an incentive for the 7 players who were in the intro to Nelson croquet session, **Croquet Nelson** is paying the tournament entry fee for the first tournament they enter.

## Golf Croquet Coaching Session

Following the Women's GC tournament 37 women golf croquet players, largely from the Nelson region, attended a one-day interactive coaching session with **Greg Bryant**. Originally it was planned to have Josh Freeth conduct the session but he was held up in unusually heavy Auckland traffic that morning and didn't make it to Nelson. Luckily Greg was in the area with the AC coaching session. Since he and Josh worked together to develop the coaching session he was familiar with what Josh wanted to achieve.

**All coaches from the clubs in the region** were invited to attend not only the GC coaching session but the AC coaching sessions held in Nelson. All three GC club coaches – **Dave Close, Manly Bowater and Mike Speak** – were part of the coaching session and Manly Bowater took part of all four of the AC sessions as well as the GC one.

All the women players were able to practice what they learned and have the support of the club coach to continue to improve. We look forward to more women not only entering tournaments but also being stronger contenders for the titles.

The session was very well received with lots of positive feedback! **THANK YOU Greg!**

### **January 2018 Issue**

The next issue will include:

- GC Nationals that is held in Hawke's Bay
- Profiles of the NZ World's AC Players
- Profiles of the Executive
- Description and aims of the Executive Committees
- Preview of the World's AC Tournament
- Update of Publicity Officers
- Focus of *Croquet Matters* for 2018

Feedback and suggestions are always welcome. Please send them to [croquet@croquet.org.nz](mailto:croquet@croquet.org.nz).