



# CROQUET MATTERS

# NOVEMBER 2018

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## From the President



Kia ora,

The season is in full swing with club, interclub, regional and national competitions being played. Thanks to all the people at club and regional levels who continue to grow croquet by encouraging players to compete

as well as providing the coaching that supports the growth. Club competitions provide first opportunities, and continuing ones, for testing your skills. At the club level there is flexibility in scheduling games and the different competitions to test what players practise. Our volunteers at the club and regional levels give tireless hours and it does make a difference.

The North Island and South Island Golf Croquet tournaments had strong competition this year. These two are Tier 1 events. Many congratulations to all the winners who are detailed later in this edition, and for everyone for taking part.

Thanks go to **Orewa CC** (Auckland) and Manager **Pixie Jones-Merredew**, and **Nelson Hinemoa CC** (Nelson) and Manager **Lance Barker** for hosting and managing these events.

The CNZ Executive is in the process of making changes in how we operate. There has not been a clear structure for at least 10 years of how communications flow. Committees and subcommittees are staffed with people who have the expertise, knowledge, and commitment to perform a vital responsibility of croquet. Each committee is rewriting its terms of reference to reflect the communication channels as well as its roles, responsibilities and authorities. This year, the parameters of each committee, whether governance or operational, will be clearly defined and reviewed for its purpose and relevance. More information on these committees will be announced once they have been finalised. In the meantime, the committees will continue to operate as they do currently until the review is complete and any changes are made.

Once the roles, responsibilities and authorities are written for each committee, they will be added to the CNZ website for future reference. When committee composition changes, the website will be updated. There are quite a few people behind the scenes that help with strengthening croquet and moving it forward. Having a structure and strong infrastructure, which we are building, is vital to croquet continuing to grow. A brochure is being developed that outlines these areas for future reference and, when ready, will be sent to all associations for distributions. Stay tuned for next month's updates.

Continue to play well and have fun!  
Warm regards,

*Annie*  
Annie Henry

## Notes from the Editor

Welcome to this edition. A new feature - Croquet Rules Q&A – is included for the first time. Please do keep your questions coming, whether AC or GC, as the answers will be helpful to many others. I hope you are all enjoying the 2018/2019 playing season, especially those new to this fantastic game.

Regards

Jackie

## Upcoming CNZ Tournaments

**28<sup>th</sup> November – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018**

[CNZ 95<sup>th</sup> North Island AC Championships](#)

**12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

[CNZ 84<sup>th</sup> South Island AC Championships](#)

**5<sup>th</sup> January – 13<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

[\\*NZ Open Championships](#)

**19<sup>th</sup> January – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

[CNZ National GC Tournament](#)

**30<sup>th</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019**

[Women's GC World Championship Qualifying](#)

[Event at Rangatira - Click here to Register](#)

**2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

[WCF 2019 GC Women's World Championship](#)

**20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

[CNZ Men's & Women's AC Championships](#)

**8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

[Women's AC Invitation](#)

[Click here for Tournament Entry Form](#)

*\*Please note that the entry fee for the NZ Open was originally set incorrectly as \$120. This has now been updated on the website to reflect the correct amount of \$105.*

*There is an error on page 79 of the 2018-19 Fixtures yearbook for the CMM 60<sup>th</sup> AC Annual Tournament March 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 2019. The correct address for the tournament manager is:-*

[petejacqui0@gmail.com](mailto:petejacqui0@gmail.com) (not peter)

## CNZ Tournament Roundup

### [CNZ North Island GC Championships](#)

Orewa Croquet Club hosted the North Island Golf Croquet Tournament with the doubles competition featuring four pairs played on the first two days, followed by the singles. Both competitions included the defending champions, and featured some of the very best players in NZ. Playing to defend their titles were North Island Singles Champion John Christie, and the doubles combination of Nelson Morrow and John Christie.

The new GC rules were in evidence during the tournament, particularly the 'playing the wrong ball' rule which attracted several meaningful discussions between competitors.

In one instance this involved the referee, complete with rule book, needing to explain and clarify the situation. The 'deeming' rule was also well used and in one case, in a doubles game, applied at the twelfth hoop by one member of each team until one of their partners eventually managed to get into a hoop-running position to score the hoop and a vital 7/6 win.

Nelson Morrow (Warkworth) and playing partner John Christie (Morrinsville) prevailed in the two-day Doubles competition, with five wins. Runners-up were Kathie Grant and Malcolm Cawley (both of Epsom-Remuera), with four wins.

The Singles competition, played in two blocks of eight, saw Felix Webby (West End), Dallas Cooke (Mt. Maunganui), Phyllis Young (Morrinsville) and Rod Templeman (North Shore) progress from Block A to the Final Knockout competition. Nelson Morrow, John Christie, Malcom Cawley and Brian Williams (Wellington) progressed from Block B.

The knockout rounds produced some outstanding shot-making and excellent battles, before Felix and Rod took their well-deserved places in the Final. A tough game ensued in the first game, which Felix secured with a 7/5 win, before clinching the title with a very convincing 7/1 in the second game.

Spectators were treated to amazing displays of skill and accuracy and some fierce battles for supremacy. Apart from a downpour at the end of the first day, the weather played its part in making this a memorable event, along with the excellent organisation and dedication by the organisers.



*From L. to R. Nelson Morrow, CNZ Vice President Kathie Grant, and John Christie (Doubles winners)*



*Felix Webby receiving the Singles Championship trophy from CNZ Vice-President, Kathie Grant*

## CNZ South Island GC Championships

Croquet Nelson hosted the South Island GC Championships at Nelson-Hinemoa Croquet Club. All eyes had been on the weather forecast in the run up to the event and Metservice proved spot on. As anticipated, the doubles event experienced two days of high winds and pouring rain and then, for the singles event, it was back to the normal “sunny Nelson”.

Seven hardy doubles partnerships played each other in a round robin format on successive days, fighting the conditions as well as each other. There were several exciting wins against higher ranked pairs but in the end the formidable pairing of Dennis Bulloch and Jace Hobbs edged out Duncan Dixon and Ellie Ross, 10 wins to 9 for the Doubles title.



*South Island winners and runners up with CNZ President Annie Henry (front left) and tournament manager Lance Barker (back right)*

There were two full blocks for the singles, with some really stiff competition for each player. Mikey Lauer gained some good wins, including one against the eventual champion; and it was pleasing to note that every single player enjoyed a win on the first day. The top eight players took part in the knockout on the final day of competition.

Logan McCorkindale enjoyed a great run, producing some excellent roquets and jump shots, then defeated Dennis Bulloch in the final to take the title. Local player, Sue Bowater, played consistently well throughout to take the Plate.

## Regional News

### Five years of Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui

*By Michael Hardman, President Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui*

In September 2013 Manawatu and Wanganui Croquet Associations merged into a single association, Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui. Now is a good time to reflect on the benefits of the merger. We will also look at how the process we used to bring about the merger helped to achieve those benefits. Our experience may be helpful to other smaller associations.

#### **The benefits**

The merger has created a larger player base and sounder financial situation than two separate associations.

Members of the Marton club, in particular, have contributed their expertise and experience to the Match Committee, which deals with all playing-related matters, and one of their members has been AC Handicapper for the association.

There have been several benefits on the playing side: The amalgamation has preserved a viable AC interclub competition after the loss of two Manawatu clubs, and improved the GC Interclub competition. The teams for the Lower North Island Teams events and our exchanges are stronger, with a wider range of clubs and players to select from. This is particularly the case in AC, where Marton has almost all the competitive A Grade players and Rose Gardens most in the Intermediate Grade. Entries from both sides of the Rangitikei River help provide enough players for the CM-W Competition Days (Doubles in both codes) to survive; these encourage club members to play outside their own club and mix with members of other CM-W clubs.

#### **The process of amalgamation**

The process started informally over a year earlier when MCA invited the two WCA clubs, Marton and Wanganui, to participate in its 2012-13 interclub competitions in both codes. This was partly a response to the declining number of teams in MCA Interclub, but also a first step to closer relations

between the areas. In 2012-13 Marton entered a team in AC Interclub and both Marton and Wanganui in GC interclub.

The initial approach for merger came from the smaller association, Wanganui. We think this is important. Throughout the subsequent process Manawatu representatives tried hard to ensure that the merger would not be seen in Wanganui as a take-over.

WCA sent a request for amalgamation in June 2013, after a resolution at its AGM. The President of MCA (Jean Corbin Thomas) then met informally with the President of WCA (Murray McNae) and set up an MCA working group to meet with representatives of WCA to establish the process for amalgamation. MCA clubs at the August meeting strongly supported the proposed amalgamation and process.

MCA was an Incorporated Society, but WCA was not. To preserve this status without having to make a new application for incorporation it was simplest to amend the MCA constitution to rename the association and to expand its boundaries to include the area of the added clubs.

Two MCA meetings in September 2013 were required to formally bring about the amalgamation: An Ordinary General Meeting to approve the inclusion of the Marton and Wanganui clubs (the Constitution already allowed inclusion of "other clubs") and a Special General Meeting to approve the constitution changes. The vote at the first meeting entitled the two clubs to vote on these changes. Subsequently WCA was dissolved and its funds transferred to the bank account of the new combined association.

This completed the amalgamation process and the two additional clubs have been integral members of the association from then on.

Michael Hardman  
*President Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui, 2015 to present*

Jean Corbin Thomas  
*President Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui, 2013-2015*

## Heretaunga Spring Tournaments News

With spring in the air, Heretaunga Croquet Club opened the season by hosting two major events with entries coming from across the region.

The first Chiropractic Tournament featured 20 doubles, 16 Open singles and 8 Handicap singles with entries from Heretaunga, Marewa, Gisborne, Palmerston North, and Tauranga.

The Open singles champion was Tony Stephens (Heretaunga) and the runner-up was Graham Benvie (Tauranga). The winner of Block G. was Rob Hayes; Block H. Sonya Sedgwick and Block J. Jenny Greig (all Heretaunga).

Success in the Handicap Doubles went to Carol Cowley & Geoff Russell. In the Handicap Singles the winner was Nigel Ellingham; runner-up Colin Harris and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Jeff Cook (all from Heretaunga).

At the end of September Heretaunga Croquet Club also held a tournament sponsored by the YUMMY Fruit Co. with entries from the Heretaunga, Marewa and Morrinsville Croquet Clubs. For the first time a section was held just for juniors.

This competition was a great success, and the fact that it was possible to have 5 juniors competing and creating a section of their own is a testament to the work being done in the region to safeguard the future of the sport in the area. It is also wonderful to be able to enlist support from a local business such as YUMMY Fruit Co. to promote croquet in the region.



Winners from left to right are Don Hembrow, Sonya Sedgwick, Geoff Young, Helen Reeves, Dallas Cooke, Georgia Taylor, Connor Parker.



The participating juniors were (left to right) Georgia Taylor, Zedina Sedgwick, Connor Parkhill, Thomas Monteith, Oliver Brown.

## Croquet Rules Q & A

This is the first of what will be a regular Q&A feature, where any questions submitted will be answered by our expert Brian Boutel, who is Chair of the WCF Rules Committee.

The first question received is about Golf Croquet and asks:-

**"After 2 or more out of sequence balls are played, how does play continue?"**

**Answer:** There is scope for confusion here because "out-of-sequence" means different things to different people.

Some people distinguish between playing your own ball when it is not its turn ("out-of-sequence") and playing a ball you are not entitled to play ("wrong ball").

The rules of Golf Croquet make no distinction between the two. Any stroke is a **wrong ball** unless it is played by the striker using the striker's ball.

Generally, only the last wrong ball is considered so the consequences of several wrong balls are the same as if the first wrong ball is detected.

So, this might be a good time to refresh memories of the Wrong Ball rule as a whole. I'll cover the normal situation first, and then deal with possible exceptions.

If nobody notices the first wrong ball, then the next stroke must be played as though the first stroke was valid. Suppose it was **Blue** to play, but **Red** played. The next ball to play is **Black** because Black follows **Red**. If any other ball is played, it is a wrong ball.

The standard remedy is to put the wrong ball back where it was, also replacing any other balls moved by the stroke, and then playing the correct ball, in the example, that is **Black**.

This is known as "**Replace and Replay**".

Note that this is also the rule that applies if the first wrong ball is noticed, **Red** would be put back and **Blue** played.

One of the problems with the old rules was that "Replace and Replay" could give rise to a "gift hoop". Sometimes play got out of sequence because, in singles, one player played the partner ball and the other player did not notice and played the ball they were planning to play next. Each player then continued to play the ball that they did not play in their previous turn, so you could get sequences like B R K Y K(wrong) R B Y K R B until somebody noticed. The last B was wrong, so "Replace and Replay" said to replace B and play K. Quite often, K was sitting in a

hoop-running position and scored the hoop. This was unfair because the opponents thought they would be able to clear K before it played, but the sequence change denied them that opportunity. This happened surprisingly often.

In the old rules, "Replace and Replay" only applied to playing the partner ball, but in the new rules it is used for almost all wrong ball play.

To fix the problem an alternative was introduced in the new rules, but only in the case of playing the partner ball. The non-offending side could choose, instead of "Replace and Replay", to do a **Ball Swap**. This, in the example sequence would mean treating B's last stroke as if it had been played by K, placing K where B came to rest and B where K had been. Since K should have played, the next ball to play is Y.

Note that any hoop run counts, so Ball Swap may not be the best option.

There are two exceptional cases. One is when the same side plays twice in succession. This is penalised because it can be blatant cheating.

Suppose it is not B's turn, but B is in front of the next hoop. If B plays and runs the hoop, and then plays again quickly before anyone can forestall, without a special rule, the hoop counts. The next stroke is a wrong ball, but "Replace and Replay" is not punishment, and the cheats have scored.

Even though not all cases of playing twice are cheating, a penalty always applies. This is the same as would have happened in the old rules, the opponents decide whether the ball are put back or not, and then play either of their balls. No points are scored.

The other case is when a stroke is played with an opponent's ball and this is not noticed. If the next stroke is played, it must be a wrong ball. For example, if B plays R, the next turn must be played with K, otherwise it's a wrong ball (out of sequence), but if the other side (R&Y) play K it's a wrong ball because it doesn't belong to them. There is no valid play, and both sides are at fault, so the remedy must be fair to both. The last two strokes are cancelled, no points are scored and play resumes with a penalty area continuation.