



June 2015

This month:

We wish the participants in the World Croquet Federation Women's AC World Championships good fortune and a good bit of luck on the side. On the home front we congratulate a number of people on being made Life Members of their Association.

Winter makes for different enjoyments!



Winter at the Michael Hill Golf Course – frozen fountains

From the Executive

The Executive would like to wish all the best to the four women representing NZ at the World Women's AC Championships next month.

On the home front, a big thank you to all those who have been involved in updating any piece of the Yearbook. It is an important job and we appreciate your efforts.

The Croquet NZ Annual General Meeting will be held in Wellington on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th October. There is still time to put in a remit or recommendation for Croquet NZ to consider (closing date 10 July). We look forward to anything that will improve the sport generally. Details for nominating players and

officials for the Croquet NZ Awards have been sent to Association Secretaries. If there is someone in your club who has improved out of sight, won major championships or contributed vast amounts of their volunteer time to the club then please nominate them. We want to celebrate all the successes.

As Sue Roberts has now completed two two-year terms as President we are looking for a new President. Baubre Murray is up for re-election as Vice President (and she intends to stand again). Phillip Drew has served two two-year terms as a councillor, and Dallas Cooke and Brian Boutel have both completed one two-year term as councillors. All three are up for re-election. Annie Henry is part way through a two year term as Vice President and Murray Goldfinch joined the Executive at last year's AGM. If you are keen to join the Executive please throw your name into the ring, we encourage you to apply.

The Executive's last meeting before the Annual General Meeting will be this weekend (4 July 2015). One of the major items on the agenda is the application that we will make to SportNZ for community sport investment. As you will be aware from previous Croquet Matters, this would be a big deal for Croquet if we were to miss out on this investment. The money that we have received from SportNZ over the years has been important to fund our sport. We are going to put our best foot forward and argue our case. The Executive Director has spent a huge amount of time working with the people at SportNZ to push our case and ensure that they understand what we can offer.

CNZ Awards & Qualifications:

New level one AC coach:

Jacqueline Anderson - Auckland Assn

Sport Development Officer

The 2015-16 Croquet Season includes additions to the CNZ programmes. Gold, Silver and Bronze squad events are more accessible this season with three of each level offered throughout the country, and a new **Junior Croquet Squad** event for up to 12 year olds is being developed to cater for a rising interest in primary school age students wanting to participate in youth activities.

The Gold, Silver and Bronze squads are open to all CNZ affiliated players and are aligned with the CNZ Merit Awards for Association Croquet. The coaching content is designed to help participants achieve the relevant CNZ Merit Award;

Bronze Merit Award for the first occasion in a tournament that a player completes a break of 10 hoops or more, with or without bisques.

This is an excellent introduction to Association Croquet for Handicaps in the range of 16 to 24. The concepts of what we are trying to achieve in Association Croquet and the effective use of extra turns (bisques) to attain them is explored. Club level Arthur Ross Memorial games provide an excellent opportunity to try out learned techniques and tactics.

Silver Merit Award for the first occasion in a tournament that a player makes a break of 12 hoops or more, without bisques. (Hoop points can include peels on partner ball, and peg points count.)

A natural progression from completing breaks with bisques is to do the same without them!

Silver squad participants focus on improvements to technique and break consistency, including strategies that put the odds in our favour. Players with a handicap in the range of 16 to 4 will be most suited to this squad but those players with a lower handicap who have not yet achieved a Silver Merit Award are encouraged to participate as well.

Gold Merit Award for a triple peel in a tournament.

For those that have been playing Association Croquet for a few years, completing a Triple Peel represents the yardstick of a senior player. It was once regarded an essential requirement to progress into the minus grades (under the old handicapping system), and for players wanting to compete at the highest level, the ability to complete Triple Peels is essential. The Gold Development Squad is primarily suited to players that regularly compete at major CNZ events - and of course for players whose ultimate croquet ambition is to complete a Triple Peel.

Platinum Merit Award for a sextuple peel. We don't have a Platinum Squad yet, but if you're imagining the completion of one you are probably capable of achieving it.

Conditions related to CNZ Merit Awards are simple and few;

1. The awards are only available for singles games, played on full-sized (or approved near full-sized) lawns, where the player is victorious.
2. Silver and Gold awards cannot be claimed if bisques were used to set up or play the award-winning break or to tidy up any leave.
3. The awards can be achieved in handicap games.
4. Each award can be won once, and a lower award cannot be claimed after first claiming a more advanced award.

It is the responsibility of a player to be aware if he/she has made the requisite standard. However, tournament managers should know the criteria and ensure players are made aware if they have achieved an award during a tournament. Merit Award badges can be claimed by application to Croquet New Zealand.

We are putting on these squads/activities to help YOU. If you want to have a chance at achieving one of these awards then don't be shy... register... you won't regret it. Anyone keen to improve will get huge benefits from being involved.

NZ does not just pick who attends. It is your choice and if you register you will be allocated a place in your region's course *Ed*

2015 Junior, Bronze, Silver & Gold Development Squad Coaching Sessions

All commence at 9.30am

Junior Squad:

17 October Wellington
Waimarie

Bronze Development Squad:

28 September 2015 South Canterbury
Ashburton
6 October 2015 Counties-Manukau
Pukekohe
(Following the CNZ 0-3 & 4+ Championship)
24 October 2015 South Taranaki
Hawera
(Prior to the North Island Championship)

Silver Development Squad:

29 September 2015 South Canterbury
Ashburton
7 October 2015 Counties-Manukau
Pukekohe
(Following the CNZ 0-3 & 4+ Championship)
25 October 2015 South Taranaki
Hawera
(Prior to the North Island Championship)

Gold Development Squad:

30 & 31 September 2015 South Canterbury
Ashburton
8 & 9 October 2015 Counties-Manukau
Pukekohe
(Following the CNZ 0-3 & 4+ Championship)
26 & 27 October 2015 South Taranaki
Hawera
(Prior to the North Island Championship)

Junior, Bronze, Silver and Gold Development Squad details for the 2015-16 season will be available in the front section of the CNZ Yearbook, or contact the SDO directly with enquiries or enrolments.

admin@croquet.org.nz

The Second World Women's Association Croquet Championship

To be held at Nottingham England from 27 July to 3 August 2015

We wish our participants in the WCF Women's Worlds good fortune and enjoyment at the event. Jenny Clarke is defending her title achieved at the inaugural championships in Melbourne in 2012.

The winner will receive the Charles Jones Memorial Trophy, which is currently held by Jenny Clarke of New Zealand.

The Championship is being run in support of [Cancer Research UK](#), which is a registered charity in England & Wales (1089464) and in Scotland (SC041666). Research into cancer was of significant relevance to several of the players who participated when it was first held, and the organisers of this second competition would like the event to help the work of this charity.



Nottingham Club

The following are the profiles provided for the event website by the players themselves

Jenny Clarke

A lecturer in sports science at Canterbury University, Jenny started playing while studying for a PhD at Oxford. She has won AC titles all over the world, including the inaugural Women's AC World

Championship, the Australian Open in 2010, the Swiss Open in 2007 and NZ and GB Women's and Mixed Doubles twice. She also won the 2007 NZ Open Doubles, was captain of the Trans-Tasman teams in 2009 and 2010 and played in the New Zealand MacRobertson Shield winning team in 2014.



Nina Mayard-Husson



Nina joined "The Best Little Croquet Club in the World" (Wellington Municipal CC) in Wellington, New Zealand to encourage her husband to take more exercise, and then got hooked herself. Now playing in her 14th competitive season,

she has been a member of the NZ Trans-Tasman Test team and has held regional & national women's titles. She is currently the NZ Women's Invitation title holder. Nina is delighted to have been selected to play as she had been selected to play at the inaugural Women's World Championships but had to withdraw due to business commitments.

Kathie Grant



This is my 11th year playing croquet having been introduced to the game in order to understand croquet lingo and so could have more meaningful conversations with my widowed father. He is now 96 years old and follows my progress with great pride.

I am currently the Auckland Association Coach and Examining Referee for both AC and GC. Within that role am beginning to build up the numbers of coaches in the region. I have been encouraging participants to become umpires or in GC referees.

Croquet and full time teaching were incompatible time-wise, so I solved that problem by becoming P/A to our business MAGAK. This flexible time has enabled me to participate in tournaments.

Alison Robinson



Alison is a member of the Kelburn Croquet Club in Wellington. She learnt to play croquet in the early nineteen eighties but did not play competitively until sometime later. Alison won the New Zealand Women's Championship in 2015 – the first time a Wellington player

won the event since 1992. She has also won the New Zealand Women's Invitation. She has been a member of the New Zealand Trans-Tasman Test Team and played in the first Women's World Championships where she won the Shield. She enjoys being part of the croquet community and when not playing may be found acting as a referee. She was a referee at the latest MacRobertson Shield Competition and at the World AC Championships. She has never competed in the UK before and is looking forward to meeting the world's best at Nottingham.

Venue



The tournament is being held at the [Nottingham Croquet Club](#), University Boulevard, Nottingham NG7 2PS. The club, which has five croquet lawns and use of three adjacent bowls greens, each with a pavilion, was founded in 1929 and is situated on land given in trust by local philanthropist Jesse Boot, Lord Trent, founder of Boots the Chemist and generous benefactor in Highfields Park, which is about two miles SW of Nottingham's City Centre, between it and Beeston

Flagpole sponsors:

New Zealand: Paddy Chapman

Qualifier Places

The four top finishers in the Qualifying Tournament will receive places in the main event. It will be held at Nailsea from 18th to 20th July, 2015.

Ranking Places

New Zealand was included in the 12 Ranking Places with Jenny being Number 1 and Nina coming in as 12.

Websites to follow the event are:

www.nottinghamcroquet.org.uk

www.wacwc2015.org

<https://www.facebook.com/wacwc2015>

Tournaments

International



Dennis Bulloch and Nelson Morrow won the Plate Doubles at the British GC Open championship. The winners from the four initial blocks of 5 or 6 went to the contest the semi-final and final, the rest contested the plate.

Bulloch and Morrow finished second in their block, the final being won by Pierre Beaudry (Belgium) and Harry Dodge (England).

On their way to winning the Plate Doubles Dennis and Nelson beats pairs from Australia, Sweden and England.

Nelson Morrow

And yes it was a NZ Sauvignon blanc

From the Regions

Thames Valley Croquet Association



Te Aroha Croquet hosted a successful tournament on the 26th of May, with 14 Clubs represented

for a total of 48 players. Tournament Controllers Alan and Cath Wilkie have 2 more Tournaments coming up, both are nearly booked out. Te Aroha's greens are excellent and can tolerate very heavy rain, consequently players from nearby Clubs have been visiting the Club over winter.

Clem Apted

Croquet Taranaki

New Life Member

Recently at Croquet Taranaki's A.G.M. Gary King was awarded a Life Membership, for his contribution of Golf Croquet in New Plymouth. Gary is a Member of New Plymouth Croquet Club for 16 years which too had awarded him a life Membership in 2011. He was this club's Golf Croquet Captain, Handicapper, Referee, and Selector. He was also a Taranaki Tournament Manager, Referee, Selector, and Handicapper.

He has enjoyed this sport playing in several North Island and N.Z. Tournaments achieving N.Z. doubles title in Timaru, Silver Star in Wanganui, plus several wins in North Island Tournaments. He also had the honour of refereeing the final game of the World Golf Croquet Tournament in Hawkes Bay in 2003. Owing to ill health he has had to retire from this sport which he dearly loved.

Photo shows Gary been presented with his Life Membership Certificate from Croquet Taranaki Inc. Patron Helen Elder.



Val King Publicity for New Plymouth Croquet Club

Croquet Southland

New Life Member Wendy Baker

Wendy Baker joined the Waihopai Croquet Club in 1986 and was Club Captain for a time.

After Waihopai and Georgetown closed, they joined the Waverley Park and Invercargill clubs which amalgamated in 2009 and then became known as the Queen's Park Croquet Club Inc.

Wendy was President at the first Queen's Park Croquet Club AGM and has held that position for the past 6 years. She has stood in many times as Club Captain and has been very committed to the running of the club and sharing her knowledge.

Wendy was President and Vice-President of Croquet Southland Inc. for a number of years.

She has been very supportive in encouraging Golf Croquet and has spent many hours assisting new members, organising visiting groups and tournaments.

Wendy is a very active member and has been an Umpire for 20 years and is always available to umpire interclub and Southland events.

She very seldom misses a club day and is there rain, hail or sunshine and still enjoys playing a game of Association croquet.



Report by Judy Buchanan

Croquet Hawkes Bay

T2 Interschool Golf Croquet Tournament

A chilling gusty wind didn't cool enthusiasm at the Term 2 Interschool Golf Croquet Tournament held on Sunday 14th June at Marewa Croquet Club, Whitmore Park. As a number of new players had entered an extra division was offered to enable these players to experience competition without being daunted by the skills of experienced players.

The resulting format proved ideal with beginners enjoying the chance to compete at their own level. Holly Clarke, Tamatea Intermediate and Evelyn Lee, Taradale Intermediate, had a close tussle with Evelyn winning this division by 1 point. Holly was runner up and also managed a magic hoop shot when her ball curled around an opposition ball on the way to score the hoop.



Holly Clarke going for the hoop



Evelyn Lee with an easy hoop with Seth Lishman watching

Two players only had 1 and 2 lessons respectively. Seth Lishman, Taradale High, (two lessons) did several brilliant shots including a long distance clearance of an opponent ball in hoop making position. Seth was placed third in the secondary school division.



Seth Lishman Seth attempting a clearance shot

Nathaniel Green, Tamatea Intermediate, (only one lesson) pulled off a brilliant jump shot and showed great promise.



Nathaniel Green going through the hoop to claim position, with opponent Holly Clarke in background

Ben Thoreson, Taradale Intermediate, gave Connor Parkhill, (Havelock High) a good challenge finishing 2nd overall and won the Intermediate grade. Ben also executed a difficult long distance diagonal jump to score a hoop in one.



Ben Thoreson with a long shot at the hoop with Oliver watching

Oliver Taylor attempting clearance shot



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Hamish Whyman about to do a clearance shot

Hamish Whyman, Tamatea Intermediate, impressed with a long distance hoop, the ball whisking through without touching the sides.



Connor Parkhill and Hamish Whyman at target activity which proved the most difficult activity of the day

Connor retained his supreme champion title and won the secondary division with ease. Connor recently partnered Jez Reeves in the National Secondary Championship finishing 4th in their division behind the ultimate tournament winners. Oliver Taylor was runner up in the secondary division and Seth Lishman 3rd.



*Back-Seth Lishman, 3rd SS; Oliver Taylor, 2nd SS; Connor Parkhill, 1st SS, 1st overall
Middle Row- Evelyn Lee, 2nd Beg; Ben Thoreson, 1st Intermediate, 2nd overall
Front - Hamish Whyman, 2nd Int; Nathaniel Green, 3rd Beg; Holly Clarke, 1st Beg
(SS- Secondary School, Int - Intermediate, Beg - Beginner)*

Te Mata Croquet Club



GC Handicap Doubles: Saturday 20th June 2015 at 8.45am

GC Level Singles: Sunday 21st June 2015 at 8.45am

Heretaunga Croquet Club, (Hastings merged with Te Mata), held the inaugural mid-winter Golf Croquet Tournament Saturday 20 & 21 June. Heretaunga member and Manager Helen Reeves was very relieved to find on Saturday morning the weather was beautiful after the proposed weather forecast. After heavy rain Saturday night, Sunday also dawned a beautiful day. Lawns were in excellent order after a month of being closed for lawn maintenance during May.

Entries were received from Heretaunga, Marewa, two from Rose Gardens in Palmerston North and one from Levin Croquet Clubs. All winners were from Heretaunga Club, except for the Level one singles.

Saturday - Handicap Doubles:



PREMIER: Winners - Robyn Johnston & John Morris:
SUPER LEAGUE: Jez Reeves & David Ward;
CHAMPIONSHIP: Faye & Doug Millar (*pictured with the manager Helen Reeves*)

Sunday - Level Singles:

OPEN: Don Hembrow:
LEVEL ONE: Jayne Powis (Marewa):

LEVEL TWO: Jez Reeves. (Jez is a member of the CNZ Junior Development Squad.



Jez Reeves

Colleen Stephens Heretaunga CC Publicity

The weather gods clearly approve of croquet. While the rest of the North Island was awash with rain, snow and strong winds last weekend, Heretaunga Club's inaugural golf croquet took place in mild non-raining conditions, even managing blue skies and sunshine on the second day.

A big thank you to all the backstage helpers who prepared the lawns, baked the cakes, ran the kitchen and polished the clubhouse. Thank you also to the competitors for a good, clean fight.

Jayne Powis



A perfect day for croquet



Not every day is perfect for croquet



Photos by Diane Charteris

Auckland Croquet Association

The Pakuranga Croquet Club hosted a visit from the Waiheke croquet club on 20th May 2015.

It was a social day with mixed games of golf croquet. We welcomed our visitors with the now famous cheese scones made by Marilyn. A byo lunch and afternoon tea were put on by the Pakuranga club before driving our visitors back to half moon bay and their ferry home .

A very enjoyable day

Colleen Muir



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Croquet Nelson

Croquet Nelson Queen's Birthday Weekend Tournament

The Queen's Birthday Weekend Handicap Tournament has become a tradition of fun for players and pride for the Nelson Hinemoa Croquet Club that hosts it. Over the three days association croquet is played in the morning and golf croquet in the afternoon. This format provides an opportunity for those who wish to play both codes, which is highly encouraged. The weather was beautiful blue skies with crisp mornings.

A Swiss format was used for the morning games of association croquet. Everyone played two games in the morning. There was a clear winner with Doug Nottage (Nelson Hinemoa) winning all his games. Runner up was Mike McClure (Richmond) winning all but one of his

games. As a result of their play, Doug's handicap moved to minus half and Mike's to minus 1.5. Congratulations to both of them.

The afternoon handicap golf croquet games were divided into four blocks with striping used for the knock out play offs. They played 13 point games for the block and 19 point games in the play offs. There was one first time player who had been playing just a couple of months.

The winners of the blocks were: Mike McClure (Richmond), Ian MacDougall (Nelson Hinemoa), Annie Henry, (Nelson Hinemoa), and Jace Hobbs (Nelson Hinemoa). In the final there was a 3 way tie for first place: Mike, Jace and Annie. Jace Hobbs beat Mike McClure 10 - 3; Mike McClure beat Annie Henry 10 - 6; Annie Henry beat Jace Hobbs 10 - 8. With a count back, Jace Hobbs was the winner and Annie Henry was runner up. Jace Hobbs' handicap is now a 1. Well done Jace! Other winners were Bev Worrall and Marie Peterson.

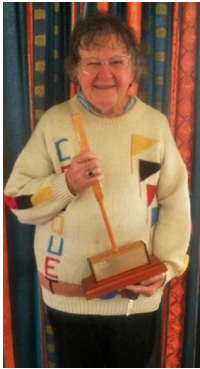
There were fun prizes given each day. For the association players, those who made breaks, ran the first hoop during the first turn, or ran a hoop from the balk line were given a bite size candy bar. There were 7 breaks made ranging from a break of 6 - 15. Pam Seymour (Nelson Hinemoa) ran the first hoop during the first turn and Eleanor Hannay (Richmond) and Maureen Hakin (Nelson Hinemoa) ran hoops from the balk line.

For the golf croquet players, those who made a hoop in one or did a successful jump shot were given a bite size candy bar. There were 47 jump shots ranging from one person making one to another person making 6. Fifteen people had hoops in one.

A Cadbury candy bar was given to the winners of the finals for all those who placed second, third, etc. in their block. The block winners were given prize money in addition to the winners and runners up for each code. The intention was to have fun and play as much croquet as you wanted! Next year the Committee is considering starting a bit later and playing later in the day

to fully utilize the warmth of sunny Nelson. Join us for some fun next year!

Mary North (Publicity Officer for CNN)



Bev Worrall



Marie Peterson



Doug Nottage



Croquet Nelson Association (CNN) **Long Range Planning**

On June 19th, 2015 the Croquet Nelson Management Committee together with the Presidents and Club Captains of the member clubs met at Nelson Hinemoa CC for a long range planning workshop.

The facilitator, Croquet Nelson President Mike Milstein, commenced the workshop by asking participants to put forward and prioritize their ideas for future planning. Each participant was

asked to identify the three most important ideas for further consideration.

1. Focus on membership, emphasizing youth and the retired. (10) (Social, competitive, learning)
2. CNN support for member clubs in dealing with Councils and other funders. (9)
3. Coaching structure (8)
4. Facilitating communication flow between CNZ and the clubs. (6)

Other ideas put forward were:

More umpires and referees(2)

Croquet Nelson committee composition and term limits (0)

Entry fees for AC and GC tournaments (0)

Four small groups were formed, each taking one of the four top priorities with the charge of agreeing on strategies and content that the Committee might want to develop over the next few years. The groups then came together to share recommendations.

Focus on membership:

- Need to identify the demographics of current membership: social, coaching, competitive etc.
- For Croquet Nelson to develop a culture supporting and identifying each sub-group. With many people now living in retirement villages there is a need for more social, social- competitive and competitive croquet.

CNN support for member clubs dealing with Councils and other funders.

- CNN needs an officer/ etc. to lobby with councils to keep them briefed as to the financial problems that the regional clubs

have – keeping lawns available and in good condition.

- Briefing: should also include some permanent recognition/classification of the green space occupied and projections for future increase in line with player membership increase.

Coaching Structure

- CNN Coach to take the lead in developing structured coaching programme and to be delivered at clubs by team of coaches. This should include:
 1. Schedule (time, place, content)
 2. Training and support for coaches in clubs
 3. Approach can apply to both codes.
 4. Support from CNN Coach at regular intervals (at clubs)
 5. Take maximum advantage of CNZ coaches and resources.

Facilitating communication flow between CNZ and clubs

- Delegates report. Need to make it clear that this is a delegate requirement.
- CNN committee members sign up for Croquet Matters/make it available at clubs.
- Correspondence with clubs and Publicity Officer to get what is going on in the clubs and the Association into Croquet Matters.
- Club members encouraged to ask their president or secretary about anything they want to know about CNZ so these thoughts can be brought to the CNN committee.

The group also agreed that the need for more umpires and referees is relevant and should be explored at future meetings.

Croquet Nelson will discuss these first draft ideas in coming meetings, with the intent of developing specific actions that support achievement of the identified priorities.

Well done Nelson and thank you for allowing us to learn from you. *Ed.*

Wellington Croquet Association

At its AGM Wellington Croquet Association conferred Life Membership on two of its long serving players

NEW LIFE MEMBERS



Dennis Kerr (L) and Paul Skinley (R)

Dennis Kerr

Dennis started playing croquet in the early 1990s and quickly became a very good player. He also took an interest in the rules of croquet and qualified as a Senior Referee. Between 1998 and 2009 he served as the WCA District Referee 8 times. During this period he attended nearly every WCA tournament. He arrived early every day to ensure that the hoops were properly set and he was responsible for organising other umpires and referees to assist during the event. He also conducted very many tests for players who wished to qualify as umpires and referees. Dennis is a valued member of the Waikanae Club, having occupied a number of positions on

their committee and been involved in most tournaments held there. He has also agreed to be the Kapiti Representative on the WCA Executive this coming season.

For his long service to the WCA Dennis thoroughly deserved to be elected a Life Member.

Paul Skinley

Paul started playing croquet when he was still at primary school and as soon as his mother allowed him to enter tournaments he started winning. He has been one of New Zealand's top players for many years and has won the NZ Open Championships three times and the NZ Men's Championships five times. He has also been selected to play in the NZ MacRobertson Shield team nine times. He has been a wonderful ambassador for New Zealand in the world of croquet.

Paul has been a stalwart member of the Wellington Club ever since he joined and can turn his hand to any task, whether it be lawn maintenance, coaching or catering. He has managed tournaments for the WCA or CNZ almost every year since 2001. His hard work has ensured that the Wellington Club has remained a strong and vital member of the WCA.

For his success and dedication to the game of croquet the WCA is proud to have Paul as a Life Member.

Miscellaneous Correspondence

Hi Murray,

It was stated in the above (*application for a calendar*) that we were to let you know what we enjoyed most about our summer of croquet. Well my wife (Betty) and I of course enjoyed playing at our club in Gisborne but the thing we enjoyed the most was playing at clubs outside Gisborne. We have only been playing for twelve

months but at every opportunity when we visit our sons in Wellington and Hamilton respectively our trips are arranged various club's club days. In November we played at 5 clubs in 7 days in Hawkes Bay, Manawatu and Wellington.

In January we played at 7 clubs in 6 days in BOP, Thames Valley and Waikato and then in February we played 3 clubs in 6 days in Hawkes Bay and Wellington. What a great summer of croquet we had but we were so impressed meeting such welcoming people at all the clubs we played at.

It was a buzz to learn so much about the various methods of running club days, for example until we arrived at our first club we hadn't even heard about a 'pinky' let alone how to use one. (Lol). Including another trip May last year we have played at 18 different clubs in less than twelve months, not bad for beginners aye? Our kids say the word is 'fanatics'!

PS I was so enthused after learning so much from other clubs I have accepted the offer to this year go on the committee to hopefully put some of the ideas into practice. It was also good hearing Greg's philosophy on the future when he visited some months ago. That was the initial catalyst that convinced me I needed to try to make a difference.

Kind Regards

Ross Thomson Barry Memorial Croquet Club

For those like me who did not know what a "pinkie" is - Ross explains

"We were introduced to 'pinkies' in the BOP and Waikato. They are actually pink pegs for the 'free turns' (handicap play). It must be a regional 'nickname' term because some GC players in lower Nth Island clubs didn't know what they were either. Of course bisques are the AC equivalent. I wondered what I struck at my first club visit when they loaded me up with all these pegs (for scoring and then the pinkies as well). With all them hanging on my clothing I felt how a Aussie probably feels with corks dangling from his hat."

Fd

From the Nottingham Croquet Board

Jarrold Coutts is in Nottingham and has given the following account of his activities in croquet. Jarrod was the manager of the successful 2014 MacRobertson Shield team.

More progress from Farlingaye High School in Ipswich. We now have a dozen young members who have joined the Ipswich club with many more playing at school on a weekly basis. The members who are attending sessions on a weekly basis have all begun to now learn AC as well after being introduced to Croquet through GC on the school Rugby field. I thought it was worth sharing a few points of things I've done (from reading info on here and many discussions with several people). Most of it has been talked about already but fingers crossed it might help someone out.

Things I've found really helpful for beginning Croquet at school.

Let the students just get on with it. I've started with GC because I didn't have the time or conditions I think would have been required to keep the interest if I started them at AC. Give them minimal instructions and let them figure a lot of it out themselves. Get them into games straight away. The quicker you do this the better. I'm lucky enough that we have longer lunchtimes at school (60 minutes) so they can get 40 minutes of play in which makes it worthwhile. If you want to get into a school you need to make a connection with a teacher who is willing to commit to helping the students. Without this, I'm still not convinced it will be successful. I'm very fortunate that the Ipswich Croquet Club has lent the school some equipment so they can play on a regular basis.

Conversions from GC to AC

Modified versions of GC have been extremely helpful.

Session 1 I started off by teaching the students take offs along with the sequence of shots and had them playing games of GC but with the option of croquets and continuations if they made a roquet. Everyone stayed on the same hoop and it was picked up straight away by the kids.

Session 2 I taught a stop shot, half roll and equal roll with the concept of a two ball break on the white board so they could understand the idea of a reception ball. Students again picked this up really easily and played the same version of the previous GC but were now trying the new shots.

Session 3 we added a pioneer and looked at the 3 ball break then played some two or three ball croquet with the addition of a neutral ball they could place anywhere at the start of the turn to obtain a dolly rush. Students have found this really easy and half of them managed at least two hoop breaks with one student making 4 hoops today on a 3 ball break. Also introduced the clips which spread the game out a bit.

Next week I'll look at a laid 4 ball break and introduce the pivot ball. I'm going to get the students playing a very aggressive style of game that encourages break play as this is where I think they will get the most enjoyment out of it. We haven't even talked about openings or many rules yet I think that's a waste of time at this stage and it just makes things too complicated.

It's been really fascinating to see how quickly students (both male and female aged predominantly 11-13) are picking up AC and the enjoyment they are getting out of it.

The general feedback is that they like GC because they get to 'smash balls away' and perform 'chip shots' but the majority have already indicated they think their preference will be AC.

I'll continue to give them the choice and encourage them to play both codes if that's what they enjoy.

Watch out in future for the names Willet, Rogers, Hathway, Parkinson and Flin. End of next season I think they will be 2-4 handicaps in GC and 2-8 handicaps in AC.

They are excited about playing in the club tournaments and I'm planning on organising some ASHD with them later in the year with some senior players. If you think you might be interested in doing this let me know and I'll give you a rough idea of dates. Also if anyone knows some students in England who would like a practice match before the secondary schools champs (AC) in September please get in touch.

Cheers, Couttsie

For your diaries

WANTED



ONE BLACK CROQUET BALL
(Dawson International)
To replace a damaged one

Please contact:

Jeff France
Pukekohe Croquet Club
Ph 092384883
jefffrance@orcon.net.nz

Dates for the July issue of Croquet Matters

- articles requested 18 July
- date for receipt 28 July
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Attached to this newsletter is a report from the ED on his trip to Norfolk Island as part of the Go See Touring croquet tournament advertised earlier in the year.

The New Zealanders who were on the trip and playing croquet all heard about the adventure from Croquet Matters.



Your editor is now able to get to the Waikanae Croquet Club on her own (and terrorise the locals in doing so)

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



JUNIOR CROQUET SQUAD

The CNZ Junior Croquet Squad will provide young players the opportunity to meet and compete against other players of a similar age. The Junior Croquet Squad is open to all CNZ affiliated players up to age 12. Coaching content will be suited to the participants' interest and ability.

The CNZ Junior Croquet Squad is open to registration by any player who fulfils the following criteria:

1. Be a fully paid up member of a Croquet Club in New Zealand and an affiliated member of CNZ.
2. Has not previously achieved a CNZ Merit Award.
3. Has a guardian in attendance at any squad event (preferably a croquet player but not essential). Guardians should also have access to any or all correspondence between CNZ and the young participant.
4. Be willing to participate in the following;
 - a) 1 Junior Croquet Squad coaching session
 - b) CNZ Arthur Ross and/or Gold and Silver Stars club competitions
 - c) Email communications with the squad convenor and/or their guardian or coach

A Clubhouse fee of \$5 per day which includes light refreshments is payable to the host venue.

Tournament entry fees and any other costs associated with participating in Junior Croquet Squad activities are payable by the participant.

If you wish to participate in this Squad, then please register with Croquet NZ to admin@croquet.org.nz before **18 September 2015**, including your name, your guardian's name and contact details, your AC and/or GC Handicap, the club you are a member of, a brief playing history, and consent for this information to be used by CNZ for future promotion of the squad and squad member's achievements.



CNZ BRONZE DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

Open Entry to CNZ Player Development

The Bronze Development Squad will target the objective of achieving a CNZ Bronze Merit Award, ie **Completion of a break of 10 hoops or more with or without bisques in a tournament game that is won.**

The CNZ Bronze Development Squad is open to registration by any player who fulfils the following criteria:

1. Be a fully paid up member of a Croquet Club in New Zealand and an affiliated member of CNZ.
2. Have not previously achieved a CNZ Merit Award.
3. Should have an AC handicap in the range of 16-24
4. Possess an understanding of association croquet shot sequences and basic break play concepts.
5. Be willing to participate in the following;
 - a. 1 Bronze Development coaching session (see below)
 - b. CNZ Arthur Ross competitions and at least 1 other CNZ AC Tier 3 tournament in the current season.
 - c. Email communications with the squad convenor and/or their coach.

A Clubhouse fee of \$5 per day which includes light refreshments is payable to the host venue.

Tournament entry fees and any other costs associated with participating in development squad activities are payable by the participant.

If you wish to participate in this Squad, then please register with Croquet NZ to admin@croquet.org.nz before **18 September 2015**, including your name, AC Handicap, present Index, the club you are a member of, and a brief playing history, and consent for this information to be used by CNZ for future promotion of the squad and squad member's achievements.



CNZ SILVER DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

Open Entry to CNZ Player Development

The Silver Development Squad will target the objective of achieving a CNZ Silver Merit Award, ie **Completion of a break of 12 hoops or more without bisques in a tournament game that is won.**

The CNZ Silver Development Squad is open to registration by any player who fulfils the following criteria:

- A Be a fully paid up member of a Croquet Club in New Zealand and an affiliated member of CNZ.
- B Have previously achieved a CNZ Bronze Merit Award or be capable of demonstrating the playing requirements of a Bronze Award.
- C Should have an AC handicap in the range of 4-16
- D Possess an understanding of association croquet shot sequences and basic break play concepts.
- E Be willing to participate in the following;
 - a. 1 Silver Development coaching session (see below)
 - b. CNZ Arthur Ross competitions and at least 1 other CNZ AC tournament in the current season
 - c. Email communications with the squad convenor and/or their coach.

A Clubhouse fee of \$5 per day which includes light refreshments is payable to the host venue.

Tournament entry fees and any other costs associated with participating in development squad activities are payable by the participant.

If you wish to nominate yourself for this Squad, then please register with Croquet NZ to admin@croquet.org.nz before **18 September 2015**, including your name, AC Handicap, present Index, the club you are a member of, and a brief playing history, and consent for this information to be used by CNZ for future promotion of the squad and squad member's achievements.



CNZ GOLD DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

Open Entry to CNZ Player Development

The Gold Development Squad will target the objective of achieving a CNZ Gold Merit Award, i.e. **Completion of a triple peel in a tournament game that is won.**

The CNZ Gold Development Squad is open to registration by any player who fulfils the following criteria:

- a. Be a fully paid up member of a Croquet Club in New Zealand and an affiliated member of CNZ;
- b. Have previously achieved a CNZ Silver Merit Award and be capable of demonstrating a good understanding of the 3 and 4 ball break;
- c. Should have an AC handicap in the range of 0 to 4
- d. Be willing to participate in the following;
 - i. Gold Development coaching session (see below)
 - ii. CNZ Arthur Ross competitions and at least 2 other CNZ AC tournaments in the current season.
 - iii. Regular email communications with the squad convenor and/or their coach.

A Clubhouse fee of \$5 per day which includes light refreshments is payable to the host venue.

Tournament entry fees and any other costs associated with participating in development squad activities are payable by the participant.

If you wish to nominate yourself for this Squad, then please register with Croquet NZ to admin@croquet.org.nz before **18 September 2015**, including your name, AC Handicap, present Index, the club you are a member of, and a brief playing history, and consent for this information to be used by CNZ for future promotion of the squad and squad member's achievements.



**2015 Junior, Bronze, Silver & Gold Development Squad
Coaching Sessions
All commence at 9.30am**

Junior Squad:

17 October Wellington Waimarie

Bronze Development Squad:

28 September 2015 South Canterbury Ashburton

6 October 2015 Counties Manukau Pukekohe
(Following the CNZ 0-3 & 4+ Championship)

24 October 2015 South Taranaki Hawera
(Prior to the North Island Championship)

Silver Development Squad:

29 September 2015 South Canterbury Ashburton

7 October 2015 Counties Manukau Pukekohe
(Following the CNZ 0-3 & 4+ Championship)

25 October 2015 South Taranaki Hawera
(Prior to the North Island Championship)

Gold Development Squad:

30 & 31 September 2015 South Canterbury Ashburton

8 & 9 October 2015 Counties Manukau Pukekohe
(Following the CNZ 0-3 & 4+ Championship)

26 & 27 October 2015 South Taranaki Hawera
(Prior to the North Island Championship)

2015 Convicts Cup on Norfolk Island

After only a 90 minute flight from Auckland, we flew into charming Norfolk Island on Sunday 21st June, to be greeted by Gigi from Go-See Touring (the organisers) and Brad from Pine Tree Tours.

Brad dropped us at our accommodation for the week - The Castaway Hotel. Following a welcome drink of a brightly coloured cocktail, we settled into our lovely bright and spacious room. Later, we jumped into our rental car and drove down to Kingston - the site of the penal settlements in the 1800s and venue for the Convicts Cup social croquet tournament. There were already a number of players practising before play was to start the next morning. The eight lawns were mown, marked and dressed on the sports oval, which only the previous week had played host to cricket matches and athletics sports. The locals had certainly done a terrific job preparing the venue for the croquet.



The weather over the week was pretty good. It was a bit windy (what Wellingtonians would call a soothing breeze!) but the benefit of that was any rain clouds quickly blew past and any showers didn't last long at all.

Sunday evening was a welcome dinner for all players, who were introduced to the tournament manager, referees and given details of the tournament.

There was a full day of play on Monday for the 80 players who had come from New Zealand (12 from Whangarei and Kensington), Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and even a few from Western Australia. As a guest of Go-See Touring I wasn't down to play but was available as a ring-in if necessary. We all enjoyed a progressive dinner to three local homes that evening which gave us a really interesting insight into local life on the Island.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday were only half-days of croquet play, but the mix of croquet with free time to explore the Island or the local shops suited the participants. We took the opportunity to explore all the Island had to offer - except going for a swim in the picturesque Emily Bay.... That would have been too cold!

There was also an excellent mix of entertainment and dinners for the tour participants to enjoy. For Tuesday evening's brilliant "Fish Fry" we were taken out to a clifftop setting at dusk and served a scrumptious dinner of local fish, salad, and local delicacy - coconut pie. Our meal was followed by music by Trent Christian (a 6th generation descendent from Fletcher Christian - one of the Bounty Mutineers) and Tahitian dancing by local women. I participated in the Wednesday morning bushwalk through the National Reserve to the Captain Cook lookout, before joining the balance of the tour party at a barbeque breakfast at another idyllic spot.

The highlight of the trip was the Thursday night presentation dinner where all the tour members got into the spirit of the event by dressing up in convict suits. Trent played the role of Commandant for the evening, Brad the driver was Private Lessons, and Peter (our driver for the progressive dinner earlier in the week) was Private Parts. As you can imagine there were numerous uses of these names to generate laughter amongst the guests ("NO!!!! Convicts, you are not allowed to touch Private Parts!") as part of the thoroughly enjoyable function. The presentations to the winners and runners-up of the tournament were made by Michael (the boss) and Gigi of Go-See Touring.



We enjoyed a half-day orientation tour on Friday morning with the knowledgeable Larry acting as bus driver and tour guide. We heard all about the penal settlements and the re-settlement of the Bounty mutineers from Pitcairn Island to Norfolk Island. We stopped at Bloody Bridge, where the group of convicts who were working on the bridge allegedly killed their overseer and hid his body as they were building the bridge. However, they were found out by the guards when the overseer's blood ran out through the mortar the convicts were using to build the bridge. A quick death was the fate for those convicts. We marvelled at the magnificent views from the top of Mt Pitt - the highest point on the Island - and visited the famous church with its exquisite stained glass windows and rare organ.



All in all this was a thoroughly pleasurable week away. The mix of croquet, tours, dinners and free time was terrific.



The 2016 edition of the Convicts Cup will run from 19 to 26 June 2016. Look out for information coming directly to your club from Go-See Touring in the next few weeks.

I'm sure that the 2016 trip will be just as successful as the 2015 event, so don't delay in contacting Go-See Touring if you are interested. There is a limit of 80 players and this event is likely to fill pretty quickly.

p.s. The cows have the right of way on all Norfolk Island roads. There are financial penalties if you hit one with the rental car!



The Executive Director and his wife were guests of Go-See Touring, the Organisers of the Convicts Cup.