



March 2016

From the President

March has been another full month of croquet. Congratulations to all who won at the numerous tournaments. I also would like to wish our nine representatives all the best at the AC Worlds in Florida.

The focus of the March Executive meeting was the strategic plan. The Executive spent a good part of our meeting developing CNZ's strategic plan for the next five years. Before writing the strategic plan we reviewed the comments made by delegates at the AGM as well as those from members throughout the country. We asked questions about what is important for continuously developing our sport. Through much discussion the draft strategic plan was created.

Plans are only as good as the resources that support them. At our next Executive meeting in June we will determine what resources (people and money) will be allocated to the plan. Over the year the Executive will monitor the progress and make adjustments where needed. So watch this space.

At the Tournament Committee meeting held the day before the Executive meeting the two year calendar was developed along with many items to tidy up things. Our Executive Director is confirming the venues and the final calendar will be to Associations soon. Please be sure to have a look. There are some changes.

Many clubs are starting to wrap up for the season. The fortunate ones who can continue to play will be moving into a winter schedule. If you're looking for a break this winter, it is a great opportunity to play some croquet while visiting different parts of the country.

Thanks to those who communicated with me about different points in my monthly message. I appreciate feedback and suggestions. Thanks.

The next order of business for clubs and associations will be to celebrate the good play during the year at the prize giving. It is also a time for AGMs. Have a productive AGM at your Club and Association.

Warm regards,
Annie

From the Executive

The Tournament Committee met on Sat 19th March.

The key things that were discussed were:

- the Croquet New Zealand tournament calendar for 2016/17 and 2017/18. (The draft calendar is attached)
- the Veterans and Premier Silver Badges will be passed to the regions to determine how they will be played in the future
- clubs are given more flexibility over charging a clubhouse fee

The Executive met on Sun 20th March

A considerable section of time was spent focussing on the strategic direction of the sport with good input from Executive members.

Furthermore,

Executive Agrees New Golf Croquet Handicap System

The Executive has agreed on a new handicap system which will come into effect on the 1st September this year.

The need to develop a new scheme was discussed at a recent AGM, where it was felt that there were too many players at the 0 and 1 handicaps, which cover a too wide range of abilities. As interim measures, it was decided to relax the requirement that index points did not increase above 1000, and to introduce an effective handicap for top players to be trialled in the Gold and Silver Stars competition. We hoped that this would give us sufficient information to design a new system, but this didn't happen.

Fortunately, the Croquet Association in England has conducted an analysis of several thousand matches, and designed a new system that addresses the problems with the present system. It opens up the scale of handicaps at both the high and low ends, because they found that there was too much bunching at both ends. It also reduces the problem of low handicap players winning too many of their handicap games, and adjusts the index points gained or lost in level games to be fairer. They then trialled this system for a full year in one of their regions, and confirmed its success by analysing the results of another 3000 games.

We have adopted their new system, with some minor modification. In the UK they do not record doubles games on their index cards, and use a different method for calculating extra turns in doubles. They also allow high handicappers to lose index points. We have kept our existing rules for doubles, which are also the WCF rules, and we retain a cut-off above which players do not lose points.

Most NZ players (those with handicaps between 3 and 12) will stay on the same handicap, although their index numbers will change. Stronger players will get a new handicap. Handicappers will need to convert each player's handicap and index as soon as possible after the system comes into effect on September 1.

We will shortly publish

- A new version of section 16 of the GC rules,
- Instructions for converting player's handicaps
- New handicap cards
- A poster with the relevant tables from the rules
- Smaller copies of tables that could be pasted into existing handicap cards if desired.

Please send all contributions for future Croquet Matters editions to the Executive Director
(croquet@croquet.org.nz)

Merit Awards

Carol Sanford - Bronze

Qualifications

Annie Henry - Level 1 GC Coach
Judy Cleine - Level 1 GC Coach
Roger Hurnard - GC Referee

New Club Award

The Executive is excited to announce a new award to be presented at the Croquet New Zealand AGM in October - the Club Participation Award.

This award looks to reward clubs for all round success - from encouraging new members to play in competitions, to gaining refereeing qualifications etc.

The entry form is attached

Kiwis off to the World Champs in Florida

The AC Worlds are on in Florida this month, with nine kiwis (out of 80) playing.

Our best wishes to Paddy Chapman, Jenny Clarke, Michael Wright, Steve Jones, John Christie, Nelson Morrow, Edmund Fordyce, Peter Filbee and Felix Webby

The Worlds are played from 16 - 24 April

Sport Development

By Greg Bryant

We have always wanted better when it comes to CNZ tournaments; better facilities, better competitions, more entrants, less cost, more capable officials, better International results... and a less onerous task for all those involved in setting local and national tournament calendars every season.

It is considered that CNZ may have too many tournament events. The February 2015 meeting of the CNZ Tournament Committee requested a review of CNZ tournaments which was made available to delegates at a 2015 AGM workshop.

The review, and details from the AGM workshop have been considered by the CNZ Tournament Committee and I am confident this fresh look at our tournament objectives will produce better outcomes for everybody. I'm looking forward to progressing our Tournament and Executive Committees resolutions from the most recent round of meetings with the croquet community in the very near future.

Thank you to everyone that responded to questionnaires and provided regional tournament information. Recommendations from the Tournament Review to our Executive included;

- Retain *High Performance* tournaments
- Retain existing CNZ club level competitions.
- Support Association/Regional level participation, development, management roles.
- Establish reporting capability for the main CNZ Participation events at Club level; Arthur Ross Memorial, Gold & Silver Stars, Silver Badge competitions.
- Establish a billeting database / online facility for tournament participants

- Develop a 2 year CNZ Tournament Calendar (minimum)
- Establish permanent times for CNZ events
- Reconsider the establishment of a central CNZ facility/partnership

A full copy of the review is available from the CNZ Office admin@croquet.org.nz.

Developing and maintaining a *culture of competition* at club level will have the greatest effect on tournament entry numbers at all levels. The tournament calendar is incapable of creating significant growth in competition on its own. It would be unreasonable to expect that a prominent social / non-competitive membership group within a club or association would adopt a focus on developing a 'culture of competition'. The needs of this membership demographic is beyond the scope of this discussion but is not a coincidence that the strongest clubs in the country are also those that continuously encourage player development through competition. Naturally, it is in these areas that the highest numbers of members enter their regional competitions.

CNZ may support this culture by resourcing local managers and officials, promote CNZ qualifications, promoting the CNZ participation events via coaching, and maintaining a focus on increasing participation of 'competitive demographics' in croquet.

Don't try to compete with what can be provided for at either Club and/or Association level

One option to reduce the demands of the CNZ Tournament calendar is to develop & support suitable competition at association level instead of trying to accommodate for all categories within the CNZ Calendar.

- Likelihood of more entries
- Tournament Income directed towards club and associations
- Greater prestige of more accessible tournaments

- May provide opportunities to strengthen club, association/CNZ relationships

CNZ may retain and improve its connection at grass roots through the promotion of the major participation events:

- Arthur Ross Memorial
- Gold & Silver Stars
- Silver Badge competitions

Invitations at Nelson Hinemoa and Richmond Croquet Clubs. 16th – 20th March.

The first day had quite unpleasant weather conditions, but things slowly improved for the rest of the competition, although it did rain for three nights so the lawns became green and lush especially in Nelson.

The Miss Edwina Thompson Silver Tray and the Roger Murfitt Trophy were this year combined and 14 players played for the Miss Edwina Thompson Silver Tray. This was held at the Nelson Hinemoa Croquet Club. Peter Filbee from South Taranaki had a most successful tournament. He was the winner of the tournament and only lost one game in thirteen. Nelson Morrow and John Christie were fiercely contesting second place with Nelson Morrow (Auckland) prevailing and John Christie (Thames Valley) coming third. Of the six players who would have played in the Roger Murfitt Trophy Jim Wardle (Auckland) was the most successful.

The Croquet New Zealand Silver Tray was played at Richmond. Matches were the best of three and play continued until dark on each evening. Unfinished matches were played at the end of the competition.

Greg Bryant was the winner with 6 matches won. Paul Skinley and Aiken Hakes were equal second with 5 matches each. Felix Webby and Edmund Fordyce gained some valuable experience ready for their trip to Florida for the Worlds in April.

Aiken's know how and willingness to help with setting the hoops was appreciated. Greg had

an unfortunate accident when a ball went through the Club Room window – luckily there was nobody playing Bridge at the time. The Club Rooms have led a charmed life for the last 16 years with no breakages.

One morning a cat from the neighbouring houses was seen going home from a cheeky visit to one of the shelters with a sausage roll!



Felix Webby pegging out to beat Greg Bryant



Winner Greg Bryant with Annie Henry and Betty Winterburn



Mike Milstein (President Nelson Assn) with Peter Filbee – winner of Edwina Thompson Invitation – and Manager Bev Worrall



Annie Henry with Aiken Hakes (2nd=) and Paul Skinley (2nd=) and Manager Betty Winterburn



Nelson Morrow (runner up Edwina Thompson) with Mike Milstein



Winner Paul Stuart flanked by ACA President Maida Beetson and Tournament Manager Merle Pashe

Gold & Silver Stars

A selection of photos from the tournament

Broken Window!!!



RA Clarke Copper Tray Invitation at Takapuna







Tournament in that the games are of one-hour duration only, with the event winner being the player scoring the most total hoops over the day. This season saw a runaway victory for youth, with Declan Leahy (Levin), scoring a total of 61 hoops in his five one-hour games, almost twice the number scored by runner-up, Graham Raynel of Rangatira. This was an impressive performance by Declan, who has only recently taken up Association Croquet. He is, despite his youth, an experienced golf croquet player, who, together with fellow clubmate Max de Vré, is reigning Secondary Schools Champion, representing Waiopahu College, Levin. They are expected to defend their title in Nelson in April.



Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui The Griffiths Trophy (HC 16+)

The Griffiths Trophy has been contested within the Manawatu Croquet Association (now Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui) by higher handicapped, mainly inexperienced players, since 1949. In that year a member of the now defunct Northern Croquet Club was the winner. The format for the event is unusual for an Association Croquet

Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui Association Croquet Interclub Competition.

Since 1970, the *Ida Wood Memorial Plate* has been presented annually to the winner of the Association Croquet Interclub competition in the Manawatu Croquet Association (now Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui). It is not currently known who Ida Wood was, but she must have passed away over 60 years ago, as this Memorial Plate (actually a wooden shield) was first contested in 1953, when it appears to have been used for a Women's Singles event, as it was won by a *Mrs R. McMurray*. It continued as such until 1962. It was first used as an interclub trophy in 1970, when Levin won it. Over the years all existing clubs in the former Manawatu Croquet Association have won it with Feilding and Takaro having had most successes, over the years. The now defunct Pahiatua Club won it on two occasions. Last season, Tararua, a combination of Rangatira and Takaro clubs, was successful.

In the past, club teams were quite large, with each match being contested over a full day's play. Morning and afternoon teas were a feature, as was lunch. Visits to the small Pahiatua Club were memorable for the lavish spreads provided in their tiny clubrooms, even if the lawns were a challenge. Sadly this club closed recently, in its 99th year. In recent years, teams have been reduced to four players to suit smaller clubs and play has been for a half-day only, with one doubles and two singles games being played. The competition is now a double round robin, with first round matches being played before, and return matches after, Christmas. Although this is a handicap competition, as far as possible,

teams are matched for handicap, with the winner being decided on the total number of games won.

In recent years, combined teams have been permitted to get maximum participation and to keep the competition viable. This year, from the seven clubs in Manawatu-Wanganui, four teams competed, Feilding, Levin, Marton/Wanganui combined and Rose Gardens. Last year's winner, Tararua (combined Rangatira/Takaro) did not compete this year. Normally this is a fiercely competed competition, but, this year, Rose Gardens proved to be too strong, winning 14 of their 18 games, with Feilding in second place on 9.





DAVID MORRISON A MEMBER OF THE TAKAPUNA CROQUET CLUB

David Morrison died this month on the 5th March aged 91 years.

This tribute was made' at his funeral service, to the many services that David contributed to the Takapuna Croquet Club.

David gave great service to the club in many roles over many years. Over time he served as Club Captain, President, Coach and Umpire. He umpired many tournaments, not only at Takapuna but for many other clubs. He was always willing to give his time to help in the preparation of lawns for tournaments and all the many tasks involved in keeping a club running.

David was made a Life Member of the club.

In a less formal role David organised barbeques at the club rooms. They were unsophisticated events where David cooked sausages and onions, prepared dips and bought the wine.

David introduced the alternative croquet game of Gateball to the Takapuna Club. He organised overseas trips for this group of players to Taiwan and Australia.

David with his upright military bearing and his wry sense of humour, his willingness to take on any task that needed doing has been wonderful club member. We miss him.

Orewa Croquet Club Forrest Funeral Services GC tournament

Hot and sunny conditions were enjoyed by all the competitors in the annual Forrest Funeral Services Golf Croquet tournament held at the Orewa Croquet Club on Wednesday 17 February.

A full field battled out two sections of doubles play throughout the day, with the eventual winners in Section 1 being Carol Pugh & Chris Smith and in Section 2 the winners were Gloria Le Comte & Helen Farquharson, all from Orewa.

The standard of play was high with teams including a number of new members to the Club which was really encouraging to see.

(Words: 94)

Images:

1. Chris Smith and Carol Pugh receiving winners prizes from President Lesley Dallimore (right)
2. L to r: Bets Blake and playing partner John Boyens (new member) and Julie Parry and Ron Parry (also a new member)



Dates for the April 2016 issue of Croquet Matters

- Please provide articles by 20 April 2016
- publication targeted for 28 April 2016

Please send articles to croquet@croquet.org.nz

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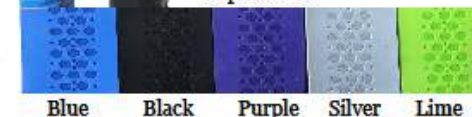
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