



May 2016

We Won!!!!

New Zealand are now the proud holders of both the David Openshaw Shield (for Golf Croquet World Teams Championships) and the MacRobertson Shield.



From the President

I believe I heard applause throughout the country for our World Golf Croquet winning Team!

Chris Clarke (captain), with team mates Jenny Clarke, Duncan Dixon and Phillip Drew won against Egypt, which was no small task.. They played to win and did so. A fantastic performance!

Congratulations Chris, Jenny, Duncan and Phillip for winning the **World Golf Croquet Teams Championship** in England in the honour of New Zealand. I hope all of you will join me in congratulating our team. Well done!

This is the third international win NZ has had in the last couple of years. We won the MacRobertson Shield (AC) in 2014 followed by winning the Trans Tasman Golf Croquet Test Series against Australia six months ago and now the **WORLD GOLF CROQUET CHAMPS!**

What an inspiration for all who play. I hope that all clubs and associations are celebrating all of these wonderful achievements. I know I am.

In a slightly different arena I attended Croquet Nelson's AGM. It makes it very easy to attend since I live in Nelson. I had an opportunity to hear about their accomplishments the past year, learn about the progress of their strategic plan, and congratulate the new Management Committee. They have plans in place to continue to grow croquet in the region. Congratulations also to new Club Presidents: Lance Barker at Richmond and Nini Wooff at Riwaka. They both are excited about their new respective challenges.

I look forward to visiting more associations throughout the year. Please let me know when you would like me to visit.

Next month the Executive will finalise CNZ's strategic plan. We will also begin the process of aligning our resources to support how we can accomplish our strategic plan. I look forward to it being published next month.

Warm regards,
Annie

From the Executive

CNZ AGM

The Executive Director has sent out to Associations all the details for the Croquet NZ AGM (to be held 8 & 9 October in Wellington), including the nomination forms for

- Player of the Year,
- Most Improved AC Player
- Most Improved GC Player
- Volunteer of the Year
- Club Participation Award (new*)

We love to see people nominated by their association for the Awards so please consider doing so.

Yearbook

We'd also like to thank the many people involved at the club and association level who contribute material for the Yearbook. And a big thanks to John Yarrall for co-ordinating all the contributions.

GC Handicapping Changes

We gave notice of some impending changes (1 September) to the GC Handicapping system in the last Croquet Matters.

Documents have now been circulated through the associations detailing these changes. We have also

included them at the back of this issue of Croquet Matters.

A number of development activities have been confirmed as outlined below:

Examining Referee Weekends

Croquet New Zealand is hosting weekend refreshers for Examining Referees on the following weekends:

16-17 July at Waireka Croquet Club
23-24 July at Leamington Croquet Club
30-31 July at Kelburn Croquet Club.

These weekends are primarily for Examining Referees although any referee who is interested in coming along is more than welcome (please contact the Executive Director), but note that there may be some sections of the programme which is specific to Examining Referees.

Bronze / Silver / Gold Development Coaching

We are very pleased to outline AC Development Coaching again for the 2016/17 season.

Greg Bryant will again run these coaching activities with the goal of assisting more players achieve Bronze, Silver and Gold Merit Awards.

These coaching squads are SELF NOMINATED. Any player who sets themselves a goal of achieving a merit award should contact Greg Bryant (admin@croquet.org.nz) to register their interest. Don't hesitate.... Participate!!!

North

Bronze – 6 September – Leamington Croquet Club
Silver – 7 September – Leamington Croquet Club
Gold – 8 & 9 September – Pukekohe Croquet Club

Central

Bronze – 12 September – TBA (Wellington)
Silver – 13 September – TBA (Wellington)
Gold – 14 & 15 September – TBA (Wellington)

South

Bronze – 19 September - TBA (Christchurch)
Silver – 20 September - TBA (Christchurch)

Gold – 21 & 22 September – TBA (Christchurch)

Croquet NZ Tournament Calendar

Thanks very much to all the associations and clubs willing to host National Tournaments. We appreciate all the work done to make the tournaments a success and enjoyable for the players.

2016/17

14-16 Oct – 0-3 & 4+ - Canterbury
29-30 Oct – Gold & Silver Mallets – Wellington
2-6 Nov – North Island AC Champs – Wellington
10-13 Nov – North Island GC – Hawkes Bay
10-13 Nov – South Island GC – Marlborough
16-20 Nov – South Island AC – Canterbury
26-27 Nov – Women’s GC – Bay of Plenty
15-18 Dec – U21 Champs – Manawatu/Wanganui
2-8 Jan – GC Nationals – Nelson
14-22 Jan – NZ AC Open – Bay of Plenty
4-6 Feb – Yvonne Yeates GC Invite – Taranaki
4-6 Feb – Duncan Dixon GC Invite – Taranaki
4-6 Feb – Gordon Smith GC Invite – Sth Taranaki
10-12 Feb – Women’s AC invite – Man/Wang
15-19 Feb – Men’s & Women’s – Man/Wang
3-5 Mar – Arthur Ross Final – Canterbury
11-12 Mar – GC Gold & Silver Stars – Wellington
15-19 Mar – CA Silver Tray – Wellington
15-19 Mar – Edwina Thompson – Wellington
15-19 Mar – Roger Murfitt – Wellington
17-19 Mar – RA Clarke Copper Tray – Otago
17-19 Mar – CA Gold Cup – Counties Manukau

*NZ Secondary Schools to be 23/24 Sept 2017

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

Merit Awards

None this month

Qualifications

None this month

GOLF CROQUET WORLD TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

New Zealand are the GC World Team Champions

New Zealand held a 4-2 lead overnight but saw the match tighten to 5-4 after the morning doubles and two singles. A crowd of well over 100 watched the final four singles.

Ahmed Nasr kept Egyptian hopes alive by defeating Duncan Dixon 7-4, 7-6 but, in the bottom singles, where Egyptian hopes were probably highest, it was the turn of Jenny Clarke and Phillip Drew to rise to the occasion.

Jenny defeated Mohamed Nasr 7-4, 5-7, 7-3 and Phillip beat Hamy Erian 7-6, 7-6. This gave New Zealand an unassailable 7-5 lead and the match between Chris Clarke and Mohamed Karem was abandoned at 6-6 in the second game, the first having gone to Chris 7-5.

The New Zealand team was presented with their winner's medals by Amir Ramsis, the WCF President and the Openshaw Shield by David Openshaw himself.

From WCF website

Sport Development

By Greg Bryant

Events and tournament calendars change over time according to their suitability for the membership and desired strategic outcomes. The common view of the CNZ tournament calendar in recent times has been an overabundance of competitions that often competed unnecessarily with associations and clubs for the same audience. A recent review has led the CNZ Tournament Committee to make a few changes...

As association and regional tournament calendars are also prepared about now, it might be a good opportunity for committees to review these calendars as well. To do so, it is essential that some criteria are established to check if an event is beneficial or not. Those criteria will be shaped by what we are attempting to achieve.

Apart from the fact that facilitating competition gives sport relevance, it is important that associations can identify the reasons for their existence. Things like club interaction, publicity and membership increases, player, code, grade and officials' development can all benefit from relevant and timely tournaments and events.

When we have an idea of what we are trying to achieve, we can ask why a particular event or competition exists. Is it to raise funds, develop players and player experience, an exhibition or to create a social occasion etc?

Does the existing event successfully contribute to the desired outcome or not? Are there any opportunities or needs to modify the event?

Is there too much repetitiveness either within club competitions or between clubs within an association or region? If a tournament calendar is too crowded by repetitions, would some amalgamations be possible? Some smaller

associations might find a benefit in combining their Club Grade competitions and their Club Silver Badge playoffs, or to promote more interaction between club players across a region a single Gold and Silver Stars, or Arthur Ross Tournament open to all members of the Association may be sufficient.

Weekend tournaments hosted by clubs is now one of the most popular types of events in NZ. They're more suitable for working members and they are often an important club fundraising activity. Are these events coordinated across a region or are some competing with each other for the same audience and struggling to provide a successful outcome?

- What role are interclub competitions performing within an association and is it satisfactory?
- Do the formats satisfy the needs of the membership?
- Are the most senior players encouraged to participate in regional competition? Why? Why not?
- What about our social club members? It may be that there aren't any events that encourage them to participate as opposed to being strictly non-competitive? (I have never seen a game of croquet in any code anywhere at any time that didn't include scorekeeping of some sort)
- How are the events across the region contributing to the development and experience of our officials - managers, referees and the like?
- Is there a need to address our capability of running and hosting events? Could we engage CNZ assistance with this?

CNZ has eliminated some CNZ events from the national tournament calendar. Not necessarily because it is not a successful event at least in some aspects; it may be that it doesn't contribute significantly to key outcomes for the national

committee. CNZ can achieve many of its strategic outcomes more effectively by supporting the infrastructure of healthy association and regional competition rather than relying on an overabundance of undersubscribed national events to get there. Maybe some associations will find a benefit or opportunity in doing the same exercise.

Jump Shot technique

<https://www.facebook.com/paddy.chapman/videos/10154899755432846/>

Nelson Morrow (middle) wins North American Open in Sonoma



Dates for the June 2016 issue of Croquet Matters

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

Please send articles to
croquet@croquet.org.nz

From the Regions

West Coast

Although the grounds were not fit for play the day was still a very special day as today Jeanette Walsh and Pat Morgan were presented with Life Membership badges for their dedicated services over the years to our Club. Both Jeanette and Pat joined the Rangimarie Croquet Club in April 1999 and since then have been actively involved in the running of both Rangimarie and the West Coast Croquet Association. Pat served as President of the West Coast Association for twelve years and as Rangimarie Club Captain for ten years and Jeanette served as both Secretary/Treasurer of the West Coast Croquet Association and Treasurer of Rangimarie Croquet Club for ten years. Congratulations to you both.



GC going from strength to strength in Gisborne

Over the last year our club has experienced a great resurgence of interest in Golf Croquet and a corresponding increase in membership. A few weeks ago we held the club's first GC Club Champs and a week ago celebrated World Croquet Day. As you can see both events were

covered in the local newspaper, the articles explaining what we did.

Ross Thomson
Barry Croquet Club

Jayne Powis (Publicity)

All Hands On Deck

The Orewa Croquet Club made the brave but very essential decision to close their 2015-16 Season early with a Closing Day on Saturday 16 April.

With the warm weather continuing, a program for the full refurbishing of the lawns swung into action.

The 'lawns committee' headed by Pixie Jones and John Merredew had been making preparation for this day for a while with the organisation of resources and planning reseeding.

A major push was made with a full week of hands-on activity by all available Club members and included dethatching, coring, mowing, sanding, scredding and fertilizer spreading.

To date, the lawns have rebounded and after a couple of cuts the new lawn is starting to look top-class. It is planned to have the lawns rest for at least another four weeks to ensure the Club gets the best result from its investment. An on-going weeding and watering plan is in place.

A special thank you has to go to Takapuna and Warkworth Croquet Clubs for their offer to have Club members join them on Club days.



Marewa Croquet Club

For the first time in a number of years the Marewa Club has closed for 8 weeks. Major work is being done to our courts and we were very grateful to have been successful in our application for a grant from Pub Charity Ltd. which enabled us to go ahead with the work.



Notifications

None this month

EQUIPMENT WANTED/ SURPLUS

None this month

Changes to the GC Handicapping System

As advised in the last issue of Croquet Matters, a new range of handicaps will come into effect for the new season starting 1st September this year.

The reason for the change is that the present range of handicaps needs to be opened up, particularly at the low handicap end. This was the subject of an AGM Remit. The Executive undertook to review the system, and implemented an experimental system of effective handicaps for the Gold and Silver Stars competitions. It was hoped that this would give enough information to design a better system, but it did not succeed in that. Meanwhile, in the UK the Croquet Association conducted a detailed analysis of over 8000 matches, and devised a new scale, which they then tested in one of their regions over 3000 games. This system fixes the original problem of bunching at the low handicap end, and also deals with a similar concern at the high end. By opening up the scale, it also adjusts the numbers of extra turns awarded, and increases fairness.

CNZ have decided to adopt the UK system, with a few minor modifications to meet our needs.

To implement the change, Rule 16 and the Appendix to the WCF GC Rules have been modified. While the new version will appear in next season's yearbook, a copy is included with this notice so that it is available when needed.

There is also a guide for handicappers giving the full detail of changing players to the new system. A simplified version of this that will cover most cases is included here.

CNZ will issue new index cards with the new tables, but it is possible to continue with existing cards provided the correct tables are used to calculate the numbers of points gained or lost, and the numbers of extra turns given in handicap matches.

Simplified Guide to Changing Existing GC Handicaps

On the 1st of September, or as soon as practical thereafter, Club Handicappers should ensure that all player's handicaps have been converted to the new system. This must happen before players play their first match on or after 1st September.

There is a complete set of instructions in the document "Changing to the New System". This note is intended to cover the most common cases.

Players with handicaps of 3 or greater

These players nearly always keep the same handicap, but their index is changed by adding a number to the existing index. That number is 1100 for handicaps 6-12, 1150 for 5s, and 1200 for 3s and 4s.

The only change to the handicap occurs if, after adding 1200 to a 3's index, the new index is 1800 or more, when their handicap is changed to a 2.

Players on 2 or below

The first question to ask is whether these players have a current world ranking. Most will, and they will certainly be aware of it. If they do, the rankings can be found at <http://rank.worldcroquet.org/gcrank/rank.php>. If you can't find the player's record, there is additional guidance in the complete instructions.

Find the player's grade from the rankings list, and use that as the new index. Then set the new

handicap from the trigger point table in the GC rules.

For example, if a player's Grade is 1973, the trigger point for 1 is 1900, and for 0 is 2000, so the new handicap will be 1.

If the new handicap is higher than the existing one, then don't change it, and set the index at the trigger point for the existing handicap.

If the player does not have a world ranking, then use the effective handicap for the player from the table on page 221 of the 2015-2016 CNZ yearbook., and set the index at the trigger point for the handicap. E.g 1900 for a 1.

If the player has not played very much recently, and you think that the new handicap may not be right for the player, then look at the Additional Guidance in the full instructions.

New Index Cards

Ideally, start a new card for the player when you convert their handicap

16. Handicaps - New Zealand Version

(a) Handicap games may be played to allow players of different abilities to compete so that they will have more equal chances of success. Rules 1 to 15 above apply except as indicated in this Rule. Each player is allotted a handicap according to ability, ranging from -6 for the strongest players up to 16 for the weakest players.

Commentary on Rule 16(a) National Croquet Associations where handicap matches are played may choose to vary the range of handicaps used in their matches. The rule given here differs from the World

Croquet Federation rule, and is to be used in all handicap games played in New Zealand.

(b) In singles the weaker player is allowed a number of extra turns equal to the difference between the players' handicaps for 13 point games and as shown in the table for 7 and 19 point games.

Extra Turns Allowed in Handicap Singles Games

Handicap difference	19 Point Game	13 Point Game	7 Point Game
0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1
2	3	2	1
3	4	3	2
4	6	4	2
5	7	5	3
6	9	6	3
7	10	7	4
8	12	8	4
9	13	9	5
10	15	10	5
11	16	11	6
12	18	12	6
13	19	13	7
14	20	14	8
15	22	15	8
16	23	16	9
17	25	17	9
18	26	18	10
19	28	19	10
20	29	20	11
21	31	21	11
22	32	22	12

(c) In doubles extra turns are given to a player, not a side. The lower (smaller) handicap on each side is subtracted from the higher handicap on the other side, and the

difference is halved. The table below shows the number of extra turns available to the higher handicapped player in each comparison. When two players on the same side have the same handicap, they decide in advance which will be considered the lower handicapped player for the application of this rule.

**Extra Turns Allowed in Handicap
Doubles Games**

Half handicap difference	19 point game	13 point game	7 point game
0	0	0	0
0.5	1	1	0
1	1	1	1
1.5	2	2	1
2	3	2	1
2.5	4	3	1
3	4	3	2
3.5	5	4	2
4	6	4	2
4.5	7	5	2
5	7	5	3
5.5	8	6	3
6	9	6	3
6.5	10	7	4
7	10	7	4
7.5	11	8	4
8	12	8	4
8.5	12	9	5
9	13	9	5
9.5	14	10	5
10	15	10	5
10.5	15	11	6
11	16	11	6

(e) An extra turn may only be played by a striker at the end of that striker’s turn and is to be played with the same ball. A striker may play an extra turn at any stage in the game, and, if receiving more than one, may play extra turns in succession.

(f) At the end of a turn a striker intending to take an extra turn is to give a clear indication of the intention and stop the opponent from playing. When a striker decides to play an extra turn after committing a striking fault, Rule 13(b)(1) does not apply and the balls are replaced in the positions they occupied before the fault was committed. A striker who is entitled to play an extra turn and indicates an intention to do so may revoke that decision at any time before playing the stroke, unless the balls have been replaced after a striking fault. The striker's intention not to play an extra turn shall be indicated clearly. A striker who has indicated that an extra turn will not be played is not permitted to change that decision.

(g) An extra turn may not be taken in place of a turn missed because of a non-striking fault or the playing of a wrong ball. If such an extra turn is played and play is stopped before the opponent plays then any balls moved are replaced, the opponent then plays and the right to the extra turn is restored to the owner. However, if such an extra turn is played, and the opponent then plays before play is stopped, the extra turn stands as valid play.

(h) The administration of the handicap system is the responsibility of each National Croquet Association.

(d) No point may be scored for the striker’s side in an extra turn.

**Appendix to the WCF Golf
Croquet Rules 2013**

Regulations for an Automatic Handicapping System Modified for New Zealand use 2016

This Appendix describes a system used to administer a Handicapping system for use with the WCF GC Rules. National Croquet Associations who play competitive handicap matches may choose to adopt the system as described here, to modify it to better suit their needs or to produce their own Regulations for handling handicaps. In the latter case, National Croquet Associations may select what is appropriate from these regulations.

As in many handicapping systems a Golf Croquet handicap serves two functions. The self-evident one is to provide more opportunity for players to compete successfully against stronger players in special handicap competitions. The second purpose is to enable players to be placed in divisions or grades where they may compete against players of similar abilities.

1. Using handicaps in play

In matches where handicap play is being used, Rule 16 of the Rules applies.

2. An Automatic Handicap System for Golf Croquet

Handicaps are initially set for each player using paragraphs 3 or 4 below. Thereafter they are changed automatically based on player's success in both singles and doubles games as described in paragraph 5 below.

Non- automatic changes in handicaps may also be made as described in paragraph 6 below.

3. Setting initial handicaps for players new to any form of croquet

Players who are new to croquet may have their initial handicap set by the following procedure. Start from the fourth corner and count the number of strokes taken to run hoops one to six inclusive. Complete this exercise three times to the best of their ability. The total number of strokes over the three rounds is the grading score. This score is used to assess their handicap and index from Table A below.

Table A

Strokes Taken	Initial Index	Initial Handicap
50-54	1350	7
55-60	1300	8
61-64	1200	10
65-70	1100	12
71-78	1050	14
>78	1000	16

This will not be an accurate handicap as it measures only some of the skills and tactics needed. Players should initially play with this handicap and the automatic system will eventually obtain a correct value. Note that players should not be started automatically on 16.

4. Setting initial Golf Croquet handicaps for players with an Association Croquet handicap

Players who start Golf Croquet with Association Croquet experience may have

Table C

Handicaps	Trigger Points for this handicap	Range for which there is no change for this handicap
-6	2800	2650 or more
-5	2650	2501 to 2799
-4	2500	2351 to 2649
-3	2350	2201 to 2499
-2	2200	2101 to 2349
-1	2100	2001 to 2199
0	2000	1901 to 2099
1	1900	1801 to 1999
2	1800	1701 to 1899
3	1700	1601 to 1799
4	1600	1501 to 1699
5	1500	1401 to 1599
6	1400	1351 to 1499
7	1350	1301 to 1399
8	1300	1251 to 1349
9	1250	1201 to 1299
10	1200	1151 to 1249
11	1150	1101 to 1199
12	1100	1051 to 1149
14	1050	1050 to 1099
16	1000	Less than 1049

their handicaps and initial index set by Table B. The first column should be modified, if necessary, to fit a National Croquet Association's handicap range in Association Croquet. Similar tables should be devised where other forms of croquet are commonly played.

Table B

Association Croquet Handicap	Initial Index	Initial Golf Croquet Handicap
- 4 to -3.5	2350	-3
-3 to -2.5	2100	-1

-2 to -1.5	2000	0
-1 to -0.5	1900	1
0 to 1	1800	2
1.5 to 3	1700	3
4 to 5	1600	4
6 to 7	1500	5

The three times round test described above may be used for players with higher Association Croquet Handicaps.

4. When handicaps change

Golf Croquet Handicaps change when the player's index points reach a trigger point for a handicap which is not their current handicap. They change immediately before the next game played, even if the next game is part of the same best-of-3 or best-of-5 match. The trigger points are shown in Table C. Table C also shows the range of index points for which the handicap on that line does not change.

5. When indexes change

A player's index normally changes after every competition game played, whether doubles or singles.

However players whose handicap is 14 or 16 do not lose index points, although their successful opponents do gain index points. Except as noted here the amounts of index change are given by paragraphs 5.1 to 5.4.

5.1 Index changes in Handicap Singles games

In handicap singles games the winner's index increases by 10 and the loser's index decreases by 10.

5.2 Index changes in Handicap Doubles games

In handicap doubles games the indexes of both winner's increase by 5 points and the indexes of both losers decrease by 5 points.

Note: **Players on a handicap of 14 or 16 do not lose index points.**

5.3 Index changes in Level Singles games

In level games the winner's index increases and the loser's index decreases by the amount shown in Table D.

5.4 Index changes in level doubles games.

In level doubles games the combined handicaps are found for each side. The difference is found, then table E shows the points gained by both winners and the points lost by both losers.

Table D
Points Exchanged in Level Play

		LOSER's HANDICAP																						
		-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
-6	-	1																						
-5	-	0	7	4	2																			
-4	-	1	1	1																				
-3	-	1	1	1	1																			
-2	-	1	1	1	1	1																		
-1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1																	
0	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1																
1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1															
2	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1														
3	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1													
4	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1												
5	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1											
6	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1										
7	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1									
8	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
9	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1							
10	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						
11	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
12	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				
13	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
14	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
15	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
16	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Table E

Difference in the combined handicaps	Larger combined handicaps won	Smaller combined handicaps won
0 to 3	5	5
4 to 7	6	4
8 to 11	7	3
12 to 15	8	2
16 or more	9	1

Note: **Players on a handicap of 14 or 16 do not lose index points.**

5.5 Record keeping

Each National Croquet Association should organise a system for keeping track of Index changes and handicap changes. This may be through the use of index cards, tables or other means.

6. Administration of the Golf Croquet Handicap System and Non-automatic handicap changes

Each National Croquet Association where Golf Croquet is played should appoint a National Golf Croquet Handicapper, and each club where Golf Croquet is played

should appoint either a Club Golf Croquet Handicapper or Handicapping Committee.

The functions of the Club GC Handicapper would include:

1. Set initial handicaps for new-to-croquet club members or experienced Croquet players starting to play Golf Croquet.
1. Monitor the use of the index cards to ensure they are understood and used correctly.
2. Watch for players whose improvement is outpacing progress on the card and recommend to the National Handicapper that a decrease in handicap be applied. Except where a handicap is grossly wrong such changes should be by either 1 or 2, with the index set to the trigger point for the new handicap.
3. Listen to requests for handicap extensions and make recommendations to the National GC Handicapper. Such extensions should normally be granted only for a player returning to croquet after ill health. Gradual deterioration in play or a return in good health should be dealt with by the automatic system.
4. Maintain a record of Golf Croquet handicaps for club members.

The functions of the National Golf Croquet Handicapper would be to:

1. Assist and advise the Club GC Handicappers
2. Approve applications by Club GC Handicappers for non-automatic reductions or extensions. Non-approval would be rare and would only follow full discussion.

Changing to the New System

You should convert your existing handicap to the New System by applying whichever one of the following rules is most applicable to you:

- a) if your *existing handicap is in the range 12 to 3* (inclusive), convert your index as follows:
- If your existing handicap is between 12 and 6, keep your handicap and add 1100 to your existing index to get your new index.
 - If your existing handicap is 5, keep your handicap and add 1150 to your existing index.
 - If your existing handicap is 4 or 3, add 1200 to your existing index. If your new index is 1800 or above your new handicap becomes 2; otherwise keep your old handicap.

Note for rule (a): If you were below the trigger point for your current handicap before the change, you will remain below the trigger point on the new system. Your handicap should NOT be increased during the conversion.

b) if your *existing handicap is 12* and you have been struggling to get your index much above 0, ask your club handicapper to reset your handicap to 14 with a new index of 1050.

Handicappers – see also [Additional Guidance](#).
c) a new **complete beginner** should be started on 16, 14, 12 or lower using the “Three-Times-Round” test described in the appendix to the Rules. Take their handicap index from the trigger point table for the handicap set. Please do not routinely start all new beginners on the same handicap. Handicappers – see also [Additional Guidance](#).

d) if your *existing Actual Handicap is 2 or below* and you have a current CGS Grade (“ranking grade”), take your current CGS Grade and use that for your new handicap index. The GC rankings may be found at

<http://rank.worldcroquet.org/gcrank/rank.php>

Lookup your new handicap from the trigger point table. Take the handicap of the next trigger point at or below your Grade. Note however that if this method would result in your handicap increasing, then instead keep your existing handicap but with the new index taken from the trigger point table for that handicap. Handicappers – see also [Additional Guidance](#).

e) if your *existing Actual Handicap is 2 or below* and you DON'T have a current CGS Grade, then your new handicap should be set to your effective handicap as set out in Appendix 3(b) of the CNZ Regulations for Tournaments 2015-2016 and the index set to the trigger point for that handicap.

It is believed there are relatively few players to whom rule (e) will apply, and it is the least 'precise' of the rules. Handicappers will have to apply judgement in this category to ensure an appropriate handicap is set, especially where there is little recent recorded evidence to work from. Handicappers – see also [Additional Guidance](#).

If you are uncertain how to apply these rules or have found a case which doesn't seem to fit any of them, please contact the CNZ Office

Handicap Card

For 2016-2017, CNZ will issue a new handicap card for GC. You may continue with a card you already have or start a new one, as you wish. The tables of trigger points and points exchanged in level play on the old cards will of course no longer apply. The new tables can be found in the Appendix to the GC Rules.

Additional Guidance for Club and Association Handicappers

Rule (b) - High Handicappers

If a player's recorded evidence is erratic or very limited, you may want to use the Three Times Round test - see Setting Initial Handicap - to provide additional information on which to base your judgement. Although originally conceived as a way of setting initial handicaps for beginners, it can also provide useful information on existing high handicap players who only play occasionally. If you find it hard to judge the correct handicap to set, you can ask the player to show their card to you after 10, 20 and 30 more games, so you can check the handicap seems appropriate and make changes if not.

Rule (c) - Players New to GC

Use the Three Times Round test to set the handicap for a beginner, and the AC to GC handicap converter for players with an established AC handicap wishing to obtain a GC handicap. In both cases, see Setting Initial Handicap. Do not set all new beginners to the same default initial handicap, whether it be 16, 14 or 12! The Three Times Round test will help you spread your beginners over the range of appropriate handicaps.

If you find it hard to judge the correct handicap to set, or have your doubts about its accuracy, you can ask the player to show their card to you after 10, 20 and 30 more games, or have them repeat the Three Times Round test after a month, so you can check the handicap is appropriate and make changes if not.

Rules (d) and (e) - Lowest Handicap Players

If you are unfamiliar with the CGS Ranking List, be aware that although the "default" setting is to display only players who have played a minimum of 10 games in the past 12 months and who have a ranking grade of 1800 or more, players who do not meet these two

criteria are still recorded within the system - and ranking information about them will help you set their new handicaps. Go to the CGS ranking system and in the top area 'Ranking List' set Min Games to 1, Min Grade to 1400 and Country to New Zealand. If you are still unable to find a club member who you know has played ranked Open GC games in the past, go down to the 'Player Full Record' area and enter their full name - this will find their details even if it was from several years ago. If the player has played regularly in recent years and has what you consider to be a realistic CGS Grade and/ or Actual Handicap, use those to set their handicap following rules (d) or (e). The key principle here is that no player's handicap should increase above their old Actual Handicap during this conversion (and many will end up with a lower handicap). The real difficulty is where the player has little evidence, especially no recent evidence, to base their new handicap upon. In the absence of any ranking information, rule (e) gives some guidance for those who have played recently enough to at least have 2014 or 2015 Actual and Effective Handicaps, and who have recorded at least 10 handicap games under that system.

Returning Players - What if There's No Recent Evidence?

What to do if the player either has no CGS Grade, or no ranking games recorded for some years, or fewer than 10 games in either the ranking system or on their handicap card for the past 2 or more years? In these cases alone, it may be sensible to set their New System handicap higher than their old handicap. Unlike AC, where a returning player can to some extent "trade off" rusty mallet skills against soundly remembered tactics, in GC much depends on the mallet skills alone (touch, shooting, hoop running...). The handicapper will have to make a judgement and be prepared to monitor the player over 10,

20 or 30 games to check their assessment was appropriate. Some factors you might consider:

- do they have any historic evidence in the CGS ranking system?
- how many handicap games have they recorded in recent seasons, and against what range of opponents?
- are they about as fit and competitive as when they last played - or has their health, eyesight, mobility etc. deteriorated significantly?
- while not playing competitive GC games, if they have continued playing competitive AC games and their AC handicap/ ranking remains broadly similar to previous levels, then even with a lack of recent GC evidence, convert them keeping their existing GC handicap and with the starting index taken from the trigger point for that handicap.
- if they have remained an active AC player but played no competitive GC for some years, you may like to use the AC to GC handicap conversion table in Setting Initial Handicap, at least as a guide.
- if there is a reasonable amount of ranking grade evidence from some years ago, but they haven't played any form of croquet for some years, then if they remain fit and competitive, you might perhaps "age" their last ranking grade by 50 points for each complete year they haven't played competitive GC (a reasonable maximum ageing would be 400 points). If they never had a ranking grade but you have an old GC handicap card to go on, you could

similarly "age" their old handicap index to see what new handicap it suggested.

- do you have other players in the club with whom this player compares? If you can find a 'benchmark' player for whom you have more evidence on which to base their new system handicap, that may guide you for this player too.

If you have some information from more than one of the above factors, see how they compare - can you take a rough average of them to give a new handicap?

Some Illustrations for Rules (d) and (e)

1.If someone's CGS grade is say 1798 but they were a 1 Actual Handicap, they should not be changed into a 3 with a handicap index of 1798. Instead, they should remain as a 1 and be given an initial index of 1900.

2.Example: A player who used to play a bit on the GC tournament circuit a few years ago (but not since four games in 2012) and hasn't played any competitive singles games since. His last recorded ranking grade was 2124. He can't find his last GC handicap card. He hasn't played any AC for the past 3 years either, but now plans to return to active play, and is in a similar state of health as before.

Solution: If rule (d) was applied verbatim, he would become a -1 with an index of 2124. This would probably be too low a handicap. Instead, if his grade is "aged" 50 points for each of the 3 complete years since he last played, his grade would now be 1974, making him a 1 handicap (set the new handicap index to 1974 too).

3.Example: A player who has had a long history of playing a great deal of GC at or near the top level, but whose health is now deteriorating significantly. His

peak ranking grade was over 2300 and he was around 2100 for many years - he has suddenly fallen to around 1900 having played very few games last season, losing most. The 0 Actual Handicap he had in 2014 is probably now too low - it would be best to take the opportunity to reset him to be 1 or 2, with an index of 1900 or 1800.

Low handicap players with little recent handicap or ranking evidence will be the most problematic to set an accurate new system handicap for. If you have queries or want to discuss a particular case, please contact Brian Boutel (ph 04 938 6709 or email brian@boutel.co.nz)

Points Exchanged in Level Play

LOSER's HANDICAP

	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	16	
WINNER's HANDICAP	-6	10	7	4	2																	
	-5	13	10	7	4	2																
	-4	16	13	10	7	4	3	2														
	-3	18	16	13	10	7	5	3	2													
	-2		18	16	13	10	8	6	4	3	2											1
	-1			17	15	12	10	8	6	4	3	2										
	0			18	17	14	12	10	8	6	4	3	2									
	1				18	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	3	2								
	2					17	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	3	2	2						
	3					18	17	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	3	3	2	2				
	4						18	17	16	14	12	10	8	6	5	4	3	3	2	2		
	5							18	17	16	14	12	10	8	7	6	5	4	3	3	2	2
	6								18	17	16	14	12	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	3
	7									18	17	15	13	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
	8										18	17	16	14	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5
	9											18	17	15	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6
	10			19									18	17	16	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
11													18	17	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	
12														18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	
14															18	17	16	15	14	13	12	
16																18	17	17	16	15	14	

Handicap	Trigger Point	Handicap	Trigger Point	Handicap	Trigger Point
-6	2800	1	1900	8	1300
-5	2650	2	1800	9	1250
-4	2500	3	1700	10	1200
-3	2350	4	1600	11	1150
-2	2200	5	1500	12	1100
-1	2100	6	1400	14	1050
0	2000	7	1350	16	1000