

CROQUET MATTERS

April
2015



Rose Gardens
Business House

Trans-Tasman Golf Croquet
Team Profiles

AvB GC
Selectors weekend

croquet
new zealand
more people playing better croquet more often



April 2015

This month:



The summer season has ended and for the lucky ones the winter season is about to start. We wrap up

results for the 2014-15 season.

We also announce the player selection for the Trans -Tasman Golf Croquet Challenge.

From the Exec

The Executive is preparing for its next meeting at the end of May. This involves budgeting for the next financial year (2015/16), put in place plans for each committee to achieve over the financial year. A full day has been set aside for strategic planning as well. Like we indicated last issue, we seek your feedback into what Croquet NZ can do to improve your enjoyment of the sport.

On the development side of the sport there have been some interesting things happen.... for example:

Croquet NZ has been doing some work with providers of artificial turf with respect to new and existing retirement villages with bowls and croquet lawns. With the assistance of Ray Atkins we are looking at providing a solution where bowls and croquet can be played on the same area, with permanent slots for hoop holes.

Following on from this has been discussions about replacing natural grass lawns with artificial surfaces. For example many sporting codes in the bottom half of the south island are moving to artificial turf to increase the playing time available to members (i.e. no practice/play lost due to adverse weather conditions). Many of our croquet clubs throughout the country are

closed over the winter. Imagine the increase in the value of your club subscriptions if you could play year-round!

Whilst there is a significant upfront cost associated with this that cannot be ignored, the ongoing maintenance costs of today's artificial surfaces are minimal (and in many cases a 2 year maintenance programme is included in the cost by the supplier). No mowing, no annual renovation, no fertilising or spraying. In many cases the turf supplier can provide the necessary facts and analysis that councils and other funding agencies will need to make a decision to support the funding required to put in an artificial surface.

Moving to artificial is not a decision to be taken lightly. However, there is now an amazing range of options available in the artificial turf market. They currently work with golf to provide a number of different "speed" options for putting surfaces. There are options that would work for croquet.

For natural grass lawns however, we are pleased to have started a relationship with the great people at Sport Turf Renovators. They have an advertisement in this newsletter on page 16. Check them out if you need renovation work done on your lawns.

We have also met with the lovely people at Fresh Take publishers. More information about them and their offering can be found on page 15.

Shawn and the team at The Limit have some croquet sets suitable for the backyard or the bach or crib. (see at end). These sets come in a lower price bracket than the equipment from Wood Mallets that we have been and will continue to sell. This is a good opportunity to expand our range.

CNZ Awards & Qualifications:

Bronze Merit Award: Josh Freeth

Silver Merit Award- Josh Freeth (one day after he achieved the Bronze)

Both achieved in Epsom/Remuera Easter handicap tournament. Josh also beat a 1.5 in this tournament Silver Award for Jeff France (Pukekohe) at same Epsom Rem tournament

Bronze Merit Award - Jenny Pullar (Batt Plate at Winton)

Sport Development Officer

I've just been reading another large shiny SportNZ publication, The SportNZ Community Sport Strategy 2015-20 take #2. There are basically two songs to which National Sports Organisations dance: the Sport NZ High Performance and the aforementioned Community Sport strategies.

There are two reasons why large shiny Sport NZ publications about Community Sport strategies are important to us. Croquet is firmly entrenched in the Community Sport camp and is subject to the strategy's trends. Secondly, participating in the Community Sport Strategy has financially supported CNZ (*See Croquet Matters July 2014, Financial Sustainability of Croquet NZ*).

On the first read, you may be forgiven for asking what this strategy has to do with croquet. We aren't a *targeted* sport and we are not delivering an influential activity in central Auckland. A few of us may be from time to time but we're not engaging many of the 213 ethnic groups that the Strategy implicates. What we can do is decipher the key trends of the Strategy that croquet can participate in and benefit from regardless of Community Sport Funding that may or may not happen.

According to Sport NZ, "Urbanisation (particularly Auckland), an ageing population and increasing ethnic diversity are changing the demand for Community Sport and the way Kiwis participate. People are fitting sport into increasingly busy and time-fragmented lifestyles; demand for individualised sport and physical activity is on the rise, while demand for team and organised sport is declining. We need to focus on both sustaining our current high participation rates and growing participation in segments of the population where greater barriers exist or participation is low."

The Strategy outlines 3 areas of focus; School-aged Children (5-18), Local Delivery (particularly in low-participation communities) and Competitive Sport.

While we all have aspirations to attract new players to croquet, what I think the strategy is really asking of us is what are our plans to meet the needs and expectations of these non-participant time-fragmented 5-18 year old individuals, and in our case the ageing population at the same time?

Which brings me to another topic I am currently engrossed in. We are reviewing the tournament structure... objectives and outcomes. Could the Associations that have not yet done so please complete as best you can and return the Association Tournaments questionnaire as soon as you are able to do so. Your valuable assistance with this activity is very much appreciated.

Finally, congratulations to all those selected for the NZ GC team to contest the Trans-Tasman series later this year in Nelson. You are a very strong and able team and I'm looking forward to another great kiwi performance!

Greg Bryant

New Zealand team for the Golf Croquet Trans-Tasman Challenge November December 2015

The team is:

Men: Phillip Drew (Captain), Chris Clarke, Duncan Dixon, Jared Keeman.

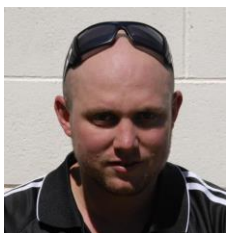
Women: Jenny Clarke, Ashley Cooke, Dallas Cooke, Erica Stephens

Reserves: Tony Stephens, Phyllis Young

The Golf Croquet Trans-Tasman Event will be played as 3 x two day test matches from **30 November to 5 December 2015 in Nelson.**

..... The Team:

Phillip Drew (Captain)



Phillip was introduced to croquet by his parents who played and has developed into an international player who has represented NZ at AC and GC World Championships, with a highlight being part of

the inaugural GC World Teams Championship in 2012

Phillip works for Haven Financial Advisors & Chartered Accountants in Auckland. Phillip is a member of the Executive of Croquet New Zealand



Chris Clarke

Chris, aged 43, lives in Christchurch, having emigrated from England a decade ago. Chris has won the AC worlds twice and is the only player to win the MacRobertson Shield for

different countries, having won all six events he has competed in.

Chris is currently NZ's top ranked golf croquet player. He reached the semi-final of both the 2008 and 2015 GC Worlds.



Duncan Dixon

At just 25 years of age, Duncan has won 7 out of the last 8 New Zealand GC Open

Championships, making him one of the top players of NZ. Duncan

was also the first winner of the U21 World Championships, and was captain of the NZ team at the World Team Championships held in Johannesburg. Duncan is also on the NZ GC selection panel.



Jared Keeman

Jared has played Golf Croquet for around 10 years after starting at High School as part of a sporting exchange. I went

through the CNZ youth development programme at its inception and has been playing at a national level for the past 4-5 years. He is currently based in Christchurch working in a software role, after completing an Engineering Degree through the University of Canterbury



Jenny Clarke

Jenny is a lecturer in sports science at the University of Canterbury who started playing croquet whilst studying for a PhD at Oxford University. She has four medals from the

Women's GC World Championships (including runner-up twice) and is the current Women's AC World Champion.

Jenny was also a member of NZ's winning MacRobertson Shield team in 2014.



Ashley Cooke

Ashley has been coming through the ranks of croquet for some time and it is good to see her on the international as well as the national stage. Like her team mate Erica. Ashley comes

from a line of croquet players and learned the sport almost from birth.

Dallas Cooke

Dallas competed in the two WCF Golf Croquet Championship held in NZ, at Hawkes Bay and Tauranga. She has also competed in 5 Women's World GC in Egypt. Dallas is a member of the Executive of Croquet New Zealand and was on the organising committee for the Tauranga event along with her father Geoff Young.



Erica Stephens

Erica lives in Hawke's Bay, with her children, and run two small businesses from home in Russell Rd, Havelock North. She has played croquet for many years and has been successful in Association as well as Golf Croquet



Reserves

Tony Stephens

At the end of January 2015 Tony had clocked up 58 years of playing croquet in NZ and overseas. He tells us he is still trying to master the game!!!



Phyllis Young

A self-taught player of Association croquet Phyllis has been successful in that genre and also in more recent years in Golf croquet. She and her husband Geoff Young set up the Kereone Club in Matamata. Their daughter Dallas and granddaughter Ashley have learned their croquet from their parents



Selectors A vs B Golf Croquet

The selection for the first Trans-Tasman Golf Croquet team was held **11 -12 April 2015** on the Nelson Hinemoa Croquet lawns. Croquet Nelson hosted the event. This was the last opportunity for players to put forth their case for the Trans-Tasman team. It was a great weekend with many good matches.

Phillip Drew and Jared Keeman were the team captains for the 4 women and 4 men for each team. Team A members: Ashley Cooke, Phillip Drew, Josh Freeth, Hemi McLaren, Jasmine Rule, Erica Stephens, Tony Stephens, and Phyllis Young. Team B members were: John Christie, Jenny Clarke, Dallas Cooke, George Coulter, Duncan Dixon, Kathie Grant, Jared Keeman, and Moya Lewis.

The first day started off with the mixed doubles with many interesting matches. There was a great deal of consultation and learning about their partners strengths during the matches. This was followed by the women's singles and an hour later the men started their singles. Unfortunately the rain started (it rained four days the week prior to the tournament) and pelted those who were taking the matches to the third game.

Sunday returned to the beautiful, sunny, and warm weather. The matches started with the men's doubles and the women's doubles. This followed on with another round of women's singles and men's singles.

Over the weekend it was clear that Jenny Clarke continues to reign as the top woman player. Erica Stephens did well in spite of recently changing her grip – a brave move at this juncture. Moya Lewis, a newcomer to the scene, did quite well and lowered her handicap to a 2. She definitely wasn't out of place at this competition.

There were several battles with the men players. Some of the ones that I was able to watch were Duncan against Tony Stephens, then Jared Keeman and finally Phillip Drew. George

Coulter was holding his own with all his games. The crowd that gathered to watch were mesmerized by the play over the weekend.

It was great to see the younger players holding their own: Jasmine Rule, Hemi McLaren, Josh Freeth, George Coulter, and Ashley Cooke.

The winner for the tournament was Team B with Jared Keeman as captain. They won 19 to 5.

For more results please check them out on croquetscores.com

Croquet Nelson is looking forward to hosting the Trans-Tasman Test Series from 30 November for the week. Good weather prior to the event as well as the week of the event has been ordered.

A strong team is fielded with Jenny Clarke, Dallas Cooke, Erica Stephens, Ashley Cooke, Chris Clarke, Duncan Dixon, Phillip Drew and Jared Keeman playing. We hope that there will be a lot of support for our New Zealand team.

Tournaments

Croquet Auckland 110th annual Men's and Women's Mixed Doubles

To be held at Takapuna Croquet Club on 2 & 3 May 2015

Point Chevalier Croquet club 7th RPM Winter Tournament

30 and 31 May 2015



*On the grass: Hemi McLaren, Ashley Cooke, Josh Freeth
Sitting: Jenny Clarke, Eric Stephens, Dallas Cooke, and
Kathie Grant*

*Standing: John Christie, Phyllis Young, Tony Stephens,
Jasmine Rule, George Coulter, Jared Keeman, Moya
Lewis, Duncan Dixon and Phillip Drew*

Annie Henry – photos and article

HOW TO START AND RUN A BUSINESS HOUSE COMPETITION by Micki Tyler (Rose Gardens CC)

Business House is a great way to introduce people, both young and old, to the game of croquet. It is also a fantastic fund raiser.

Two club members, who were teachers at Freyberg High School, initiated our Club's Business House Competition in 1999. We started with one section and only a handful of teams made up of club members managing friends, work colleagues etc. As the competition grew we divided the players into two sections, Novice and Experienced.

In 2008 we introduced a Schools section made up of Intermediate and High School students. Two of those students, who went on to join the Club, are now on scratch handicaps and have been selected for the World under 21 Championships.

We have other students in the Club who have been included in Youth Development Squads. Several of the teams who play in this section go on to play in the National Secondary Schools Championships.

We enlist the help of Sport Manawatu to help us get the information to the School Sports Coordinators. This competition gives some students who would otherwise not be involved in a team sport, an opportunity to participate. Our Club has six lawns so we are able to take twelve teams of four players in each section. The adult sections have become so popular that we have to put some players on standby for the next session. The competition has grown mainly through word of mouth with friends, Rotarians, Probus members and work colleagues.

We have never actually openly canvassed the public for fear of being oversubscribed. We run two sessions each season, Spring and Autumn and this places extra pressure on our club members whose support in supervising the Schools and Novice sections is crucial to the success of the competition. Our members, however, give their time willingly as the

revenue from this competition keeps our annual subscriptions down.

Each team consists of four players, an A team and a B team with a time limit of one hour for all games. Schools section starts at 4pm, Novice at 5.15 and Experienced at 6.15. The competition runs for six weeks and each grade is divided into two sections of six players, five games over five weeks and a playoff on the sixth night. We have trophies for each group and on the final night we put on a sausage sizzle for the School age group. Depending on the groups, this can be offered to all three sections which we did for a few years, but found that a lot of the adults had other commitments to follow.

We charge \$60 per team, \$15 per player for six weeks of play plus a registration and practice/coaching session the week before the competition starts. This session also provides an opportunity for the Business House Coordinator to talk to the players about the general rules and etiquette associated with the game.

A registration form provides us with contact details, in case of cancellation, and a leaflet for the players gives some basic information and rules.

The players in all sections become very competitive as the competition progresses. Each team has a Manager/player and all correspondence is now done via email. A progress report with the weeks results etc. goes out to all Managers after each weeks play. This also has a few reminders about the basic rules and some encouraging comments to the players. Clubs can decide what works for them and how far they go with enforcing the rules.

It is always delightful, as happens often, to hear players say "Is this the sixth week already? When does the next one start?"



*"Flat whites" and
"Cappuccinos"*

Rocking Rotarians



After weeks of fine, warm weather, contestants in the Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui Closing Day events were greeted by a damp, cool day. The winners of the Nicholson Mallets were Michael Hardman and Pam Green (RG), comfortably beating Betty Anderson & Judith Hunt (L) 26-9.

The Rose Gardens Buttons event was notable for the number of teenagers playing, including the current NZ Secondary Schools Champions, Declan Leahy & Max de Vré of Levin. The eventual winners were Josh Smith & Jamie Fowler (RG).



Rose Gardens Buttons winners, Jamie & Josh

Jeremy Neild & eventual winner, Jamie Fowler watch as Robin Scott (obscured) makes her shot



Association Croquet Championship Doubles (HC 10+) for the Nicholson Mallets

Winners: Michael Hardman & Pam Green (Rose Gardens) bt Betty Anderson & Judith Hunt (Levin) 26-9.

Golf Croquet Handicap Doubles for the Rose Gardens Buttons

Winners: Josh Smith & Jamie Fowler (RG),
Runners up: Terry Skelsey (RG) & Ken Dowling (Feilding).

From the Regions

Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui

Rose Gardens Croquet Club Trophy Winners 2014-2015

Association Croquet

The Gordon Smith Cup, Open Championship - Josh Smith.

The Jones Cup, Intermediate Championship - Michael Hardman.

The Neall Cup, B Grade Championship - Vince Neall.

The Byers Skey Trophy, C Grade Championship - Micki Tyler.

The Rose Trophy, Championship Doubles - Josh Smith & Max Charlton.

The Raewyn Elliot Cup, Handicap Singles - André Murray.

The Beau Ryder Cup, Handicap Doubles - Josh Smith & James Simons.

Golf Croquet

The Jacquie Carran Salver, Premier Levels - Josh Smith

Senior Levels - Micki Tyler.

The Micki Tyler Tray, Intermediate Levels - Vince Neall

The Rex Oliver Tray, Primary Levels - Frank Callear

The June Johns Goblets, Levels Doubles - Haig Thomson & Monica Huisman

The MacEwan/Nikoloff Plate, Handicap Singles - Robin Scott

The Patron's Trophy, Handicap Doubles - Josh Smith & Frank Callear

Closing Day

Levin Croquet Club has moved to a new site. They will celebrate their Centenary in November 2015

Levin Croquet Club Benefit Golf Croquet Handicap Competition

Intended as a fundraiser, this tournament was successful in raising in excess of \$500 to assist the Levin Croquet Club members in developing their new facilities in Kimberley Road.

Although there had been heavy rain in the days leading up to the tournament, the day dawned fine, if cold, and the weather improved over the day. The Event winners were Monica Huisman and Betsy Bruère of the local Rose Gardens Club.

Winners: Monica Huisman & Betsy Bruère (Rose Gardens)

Runners up: Declan Leahy & Max de Vré (Levin)

Third: Josh Smith & Jamie Fowler (RG)



Winners, Betsy Bruère and Monica Huisman (Rose Gardens), with Margaret Snelling.

Declan Leahy & Max de Vré (Levin), Runners-up, with Rose Gardens President, Margaret Snelling. Betty Anderson, Levin Club President, looks on.



The new croquet club at Levin.

Photos courtesy Nina Mayard Husson

Croquet Taranaki

Rules and Coaching Day

Croquet Taranaki held a Golf Croquet Rules and Coaching Day on Tuesday April 14th. The venue was New Plymouth Croquet Club and we met in their lovely pavilion to begin our programme at 9am.

Thirty people registered and we began with a rules session until morning tea break.



Mavis Brogden, who was the organizer and presenter, conducted the rules session. Out on the lawns, supervisors Moya Lewis, Eric Salisbury and Marlene Schultz then demonstrated basic strokes, jump shots over milk bottles on their side and a variety of practise activities designed to develop accuracy and control of strokes. Players particularly enjoyed "hoop tennis". We managed to include a 7-point game of golf croquet before a shower of rain sent us back in to the pavilion for lunch. Another rules session after lunch completed the rules coverage and we were able to include come golf croquet tactics before returning to the lawns for a game of Ricochet (TGFU). We then



had a welcome cup of tea. Thanks to Gwen for organizing the kitchen.
The day ended with a review and discussion of the application of rules in relation to play.

Mavis Brogden



Thames Valley Croquet Association



I have enclosed a photo of our oldest playing member, Enid Trower, cutting a cake at our last club day for this season, on her 97th birthday. I wonder if any other clubs can boast of older playing members?

A very successful "80s" Plus tournament was held prior to Xmas last December.

The lovely photos show participants having lunch, when some unexpected visitors arrived.



Santa and his two fairy helpers, one of which is our Club President.



Shirley Campbell, from Leamington/Hamilton East Clubs is shown cutting her birthday cake, supplied by our catering members, on her 90th birthday. I think we did very well to arrange our tournament on her birthday!! All entirely by accident.

All our players thoroughly enjoyed the day and have asked to have their names included in the next one.

We had four games, interspersed by a personal quiz of 10 questions done at intervals throughout the day e.g. How many people are still in their first homes? How many great/grandchildren have you got?

Clubs also arranged transport for some of their elder players too, so it was

thanks to many for a most successful tournament.



Shirley Campbell cuts her birthday cake

*Jenny McLaren
Secretary
Morrinsville Croquet Club Inc.*

Golf Croquet Inter-Association Thames Valley v's Bay of Plenty

For many years TV has played AC against WKC. 5 years ago TV also introduced GC played annually. GC is quite strong in TV and we could not field our top players against WKC. It was suggested we had an Inter-association with BOP as we felt we were of similar strength. Steve Piercy and I came up with a format of 3 players from each of the four grades 0 - 2 3 - 5 6 - 8 9 - 12. Levels play 13 point games no time limit, and the Association with the most matches won. Each player played 3 singles and 2 doubles.

Jim Williamson, a player from Morrinsville, had done several wood carvings which his wife gave to me to be used for some competition after he passed away. We selected one, and someone commented it looked like a Pukeko. Hence the Pukeko Shield.

It was played for last season for the first time at Katikati, and BOP won quite convincingly. This year, played at Waihi, it was very even in 3 of the grades, but TV scored well in the 6 - 8 grade where we won 10 games to 2.

This will be an annual event with next year back in BOP.

What a match in 2015. TV were the winners by 28 games to 20. Three players in each of the four grades playing 2 doubles and three singles each. Players were from 6 of the 7 TV clubs and from 3 of the 5 BOP clubs. Individual grade results were;

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Premier: | TV 6 BOP 6 |
| A Grade: | TV 7 BOP 5 |
| Intermediate: | TV 10 BOP 2 |
| Primary: | TV 5 BOP 7 |

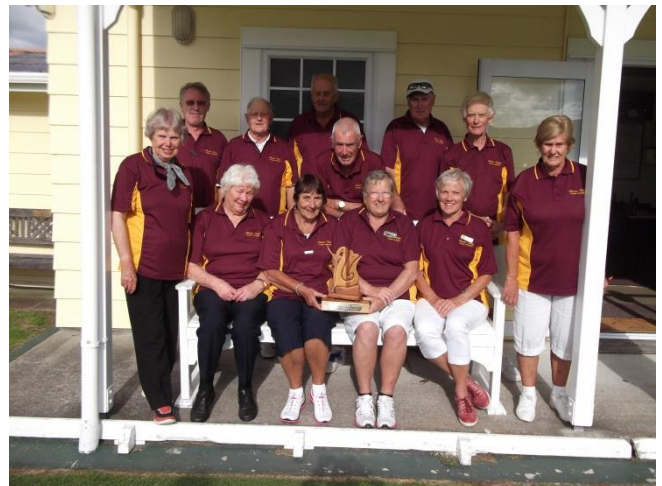
Geoff Young Kereone Club



Bay of Plenty Team

Back row: Mark Adams, Steve Piercy, Kevin Attwood, Jim Peck, Dave Roberts, all Katikati, Ian Fraser-McKenzie, CMM.

Front row: Gretchen Benvie, Andrea McDowell, Jill King, Elva Corbin-Peters, all Tauranga, Gwen McCallum, CMM, Carol Piercy, Katikati.



The Thames Valley team

Back row L to R. John Christie M/ville, John Morrison Paeroa, Geoff Young Kereone, Don O'Sullivan Whangamata, Clem Apted Te Aroha, Barry Jenkin M/ville, Phyllis Young Kereone.

Front row: L to R. Jill Skerit, Margaret Leven, Kay Mason all three from Paeroa, Liz Jackson Waihi, Joy O'Sullivan Whangamata.

.....

It seems that inter association challenges are something to look forward to at the end of the season Ed.

Golf Croquet Inter-Association Otago v's Southland

This is our interprovincial team, Otago Coastal v Southland, an event which is played annually, and this year at Gore. As you can see the Southland team won back 3 of the trophies, the Ferguson (4-9), Forrester (10-16) and Nan Stewart Memorial Shield (18-24). The Kitson Shield was not contested this time round. The Otago team arrived late morning in Gore ready to play the doubles' matches with the singles being played the next morning and early afternoon. The event concluded with the prize giving and a delicious afternoon tea. The weather was a bit average but the hospitality was exceptional. A pleasant time was had by all.

Combined Teams



Back row from left: Glennis Gray (Mgr), Judy Finlay, Beth Madigan, Jenny Pullar, Daphne Hannagan, Noni Crowe, Carole Coveney, Joan Antoniak, Kathryn Cherry
Front row: Lynley Browne, Frances Casey, Kathleen West, Lynette Cvjetan, Dorothy Walsh, Keri Antoniak, Faye Gibson, Judy Buchanan, Joyce Millow (Umpire)



*The successful winners– Southland Team
From left: Jenny Pullar, Faye Gibson, Noni Crowe, Carole Coveney, Keri Antoniak, Joan Antoniak, Judy Buchanan, Kathryn Cherry
Kneeling: Caryll Burden*

Russell Julian pegging out at the Punga club Closing Day. Russell has been a long-standing and very hard working and loyal member of Punga for a good number of years and was also on the Executive for a long time as ell. Russell is in his eighties and thought a while ago his croquet career was coming to end, however, he told us he was feeling better now and this may not be the case after all.



Croquet Hawkes Bay

Marewa Croquet Club

The Marewa Croquet Club held a very successful One Ball Day organized by John Scott. This encouraged AC and GC players to come together for a fun day and for the GC players, the learning of some new skills. A BBQ lunch and ice creams were enjoyed by all and at the end of the day, Chris Carver was declared the winner.



*Margaret Grant,
President, John
Scott
and Chris Carver*

The club has closed for 2 weeks as a major coring programme is taking place. All 6 courts have been cored and with players having swapped their mallets for rakes, a huge exercise of filling in holes is taking place. We are very lucky to have so many members coming along at different times to help with this project, not only providing manual work but also supplying wonderful refreshments for morning and afternoon teas.



Members working hard filling holes

Wellington Croquet Association

Wellington Club

The club open championship is played throughout the season. Paul Skinley won the trophy for the 30th time. Michael Wright was runner-up - score 26-19, 26-1 to Paul

The only other winners in 34 years were Chris Shilling, Steve Jones and Ronan McNerney (a marauding Irishman who was a club member for a season, while he was in NZ).



Paul receiving the trophy from Michael Wright

Wellington Association records the death of one of its long standing members Bernice Aagerson from Petone Central. Bernice will be well known to many people as she regularly billeted players while they were in the Hutt Valley.

Croquet Auckland

Croquet Auckland hosted the CNZ Silver tray competition at the end of March 2015 at the Epsom/Remuera Club.

THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION SILVER TRAY OPEN INVITATION

The Invitation Event was held at Epsom Remuera Croquet Club from Wednesday 18th March until Sunday 22nd March 2015. The players in ranking order were Chris Shilling, Bryan Bullen, Peter Filbee, Dennis Bulloch, John

Christie, Alison Robinson, Steve Clarke and Dick Smith.

The format was a round robin with each player playing all the other players, best of three matches and no time limit. Quadway hoops were used. Some matches were finished quite quickly while others went over 4 hours with players being very tactical. The four lawns used were at around 10 seconds and true.

Thankfully the weather was not too hot which made the long days bearable for both players and management.

A BBQ was held at Epsom Remuera on the Saturday evening which was also attended by the players in the Miss Edwina Thompson Invitation who were playing at nearby Carlton.

Not all the players completed their games but by Sunday a clear winner was apparent. The winner was Chris Shilling with joint runners-up Dennis Bulloch and Steve Clarke.

I would like to express my appreciation for the time and assistance given by Aaron Westerby. Also thanks to the players for their help in undressing the lawns at the end of each day and for their humour and sportsmanship which made the tournament a pleasure to manage.

Maida Beetson Manager



*Winner
Chris
Shilling
receives the
Silver Tray
from
manager
Maida
Beetson*



It was a tough tight competition and the runners up were Steve Clarke and Dennis Bulloch pictured here with Maida Beetson

Photos courtesy of Robert Beetson

From the Editor

Recently I had an occasion to make the following comment on the unsung help given by managers and other helpers in clubs and at tournaments. Sometimes I do not get all the information and it seems on occasion people have been a little miffed at not being recognised for their time and effort willingly given. We try to collect all the appropriate information but sometimes miss.

"It is always difficult to ensure that all helpers are acknowledged by those who are involved in running club events and outside tournaments. There is a lot of work done behind the scenes of which players and club members are not aware. This is always very true of the committee people in the club. The unsung heroes of any club are the Club Captain, the President and the person in charge of catering. They do a heap of work to keep a club running well and more often than not never get the thanks they are due. It is a burden which is taken on when a person stands for office and is appointed or elected to the position.

Most club members experience lawns laid out well, the club supplies in good order and events well managed and are proud and happy for their club that they are so. However, without

the willingness of people to stand for office and do that work a club would not function."

Croquet New Zealand is most appreciative of the help and work done to make its events work and in ensuring the clubs where they are held are a happy place and players like being there.

From the Photo Gallery

Janet Boutel from the Wellington Croquet Association sends me great photos and sometimes an odd quirky one.



Perfect timing by both player and photographer

The player is Glenyss Mancktelow from Hawera playing in the Plimmerton Easter tournament. The photographer is Bob McKenzie from

Plimmerton



Legs

And feet

Fancy footwear



Paraparaumu members and silver badge players enjoying their solar-heated shelter. Note the solar panel on the roof.



(Real story: There is a small creek that runs along behind the hedge. Apparently the Council are monitoring the creek for some reason and they needed to power their equipment. Looks good though, doesn't it?)



Waireka club Ashburton when the yellow ball tried a jump shot with hilarious result

What happened next we want to know???

More photos from the National Schools tournament



Freyberg High

Awatapu College and Intermediate Normal students





Freshtake Publishers is a new publishing business with a difference. Their vision is to operate a business where they can employ refugees or people with a disability. They want to do this given their own personal experiences.

Jennifer has worked for the best part of 10 years either in an overseas aid agency or teaching English as a second language to recently arrived migrants in the United States.

David has dyslexia and dyspraxia. Through a combination of persistence and hard work he has never let dyslexia or dyspraxia interfere with his ambitions. He completed a Master's degree from the prestigious London School of Economics and worked in the New Zealand public service for about 10 years

Their 2016 calendars feature not only unique New Zealand pictures, but also come with either US or UK public holidays. This has been done as David & Jennifer found that many New Zealanders like to purchase the calendars for gifts for friends or family overseas. Having New Zealand public holidays noted is therefore not so important.

Jennifer and David have kindly donated some 2015 calendars. There will be five to give away in May. All you need to do to win one of these calendars is to write with details of what you enjoyed most about your summer of croquet. The first five responses to the Executive Director will be the lucky recipients of these great calendars.

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

Pamela asks publicity officers and Association secretaries to update their databases with her new email address:

pmgeo@extra.co.nz

Thank you

SPORTS TURF RENOVATORS 2007 LTD



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