**Arthur Ross**

**Born: 12th October 1895: Died 23rd May 1975**

**Inducted into the World Croquet Federation Hall of Fame in 2006**

Achievements:

*President NZ Croquet Council 1928 - 29*

*Life Member NZCC 1952*

*Member of Hastings Croquet Club*

*MacRobertson Shield Team*

*1930 in Australia*

*1940 Although the triangular series was to be held in New Zealand as part of this country’s centennial celebrations it was cancelled. Team members were awarded were individually awarded the Centennial Gold Badge*

*1950, 1956 and 1963 (Captain in all but the 1963 test series)*

*NZ Representative matches*

*1928 in New Zealand (Captain)*

*1956 in England (Captain)*

*NZ Open Champion (winner 11 times) 1922, 1924-27 1929.1932, 1939, 1949.1950. 1953*

*Runner-up 1915, 1921, 1923, 1928 1934, 1935, 1951, 1958*

*NZ Men’s Champion*

*1934, 1937, 1948-49, 1952-53*

*NZ Championship Doubles*

*1915 &1920 with H A Penn*

*1922 with Mrs G Murray Aynsley*

*1927 with Mrs E A Johnson*

*1932 with Mrs A M G Hadfield*

*1936 with Mrs C Watkins*

*1952 with Mrs L M Boyes*

*NZ Handicap Singles – English Rose Bowl 1953, 1958, 1959*

*NZ English Gold Medal 1930*

*North Island Open Champion 1920, 1921, 1936, 1959, 1967*

*North Island Men’s Champion 1958-60, 1970*

*North Island Doubles Champion*

*1921 with Mrs G Murray Aynsley*

*1959-60 with Mrs H Purdy*

*1967 with Mrs G Collins*

*South Island Open Champion 1932, 1933, 1937*

*South Island Men’s Champion 1956*

*South Island Open Doubles*

*1932 with Mrs W N Corbet*

*1933 with Mrs J T Wilson*

*1956 with Mrs L M Boyes*

*International*

*The CA Open Champion 1954*

*The CA President’s Cup 1954 (fifth), 1956 (ninth)*

*The CA Silver Medal 1954*

 

Arthur George Francis Ross, born in Christchurch New Zealand, was the third son of Edward James and Ginny Ross (nee Cox). His father was the founding Secretary of the United Tennis, Bowls and Croquet Club and was a driving force in the formation of the New Zealand Croquet Council in 1920.

He subsequently attended Christ's College in Christchurch and took up croquet in his teens, winning his first major title, the NZ Championship Doubles, in 1915 with H.A. Penn. He was also runner up to Keith Izard in the singles championship.

He fought in World War 1 where, in the latter stages, he was gassed at Ypres. His brothers were both killed in action.

During his many months of convalescence at Hanmer Springs he refined his game and evolved his distinctive and memorable style before resuming play in NZ Championships in 1920, where he again won the doubles with Penn.

Following recuperation he became a poultry farmer and later a schoolteacher in North Canterbury, New Zealand, a position which also required him to drive the school bus over hazardous back country roads and from which he retired in 1951.

Despite that danger, his croquet success continued and he won the N.Z. Open Championship Singles 11 times, (runner-up a further 8 times), the NZ Men’s title 6 times and the British Open in 1954.

In 1930 he debuted in the MacRobertson Shield World Association Croquet Team Championship, eventually representing New Zealand no less than 6 times and captained the first New Zealand team to win it in 1950.

At various times he held every office on the NZ Croquet Council (President 1928-1930, Secretary 1932-1935, Vice-President and Referee 1935-1952) and started the New Zealand Croquet Council Gazette as editor, at his own expense. He wrote "Croquet and How to Play it" which ran to no fewer than five editions and also, due to his acknowledged international authority on the Laws of the Game, the "Powers and Duties of an Umpire" in 1946.

He was actively involved in coaching around the country often finding himself battling to hold breaks together while demonstrating on some odd proportioned lawns at out of the way clubs, playing with a pipe in his mouth that he would sometimes throw to the boundary as his break became more involved. He was considered a very stylish player.

In 1952 he was officially recognised as a leading luminary in the sport with the award of a Life Membership of the New Zealand Croquet Council

He was married twice, to Violet Ross (nee Minchen) who died in 1974, and to Lena Ross (nee Ashworth) who also died in 1974.

He had three sons, Hugh (b.1925, d.1992), Terence (b.1927), Peter (b.1940) and his only daughter Jean (b.1930) was at one time married to Ashley Heenan.

Arthur was a wonderfully kind hearted man. When asked late in life about his croquet record he reluctantly gave the details but said that his grandchildren were his best record when he would often read stories to them without the aid of any book.

He died at Motueka, New Zealand in 1975.

In 1979, the Ross family and his son-in-law, Ashley Heenan presented the New Zealand Croquet Council with the Arthur Ross Memorial Trophy for the New Zealand National Handicap Event to encourage croquet at grass roots level, something Ross believed in passionately.

Arthur Ross, sometimes called, "The father of the triple peel."

This memorial is derived from a number of sources including the New Zealand Croquet Council, the records of Ashley Heenan and the "New Zealand Roll of Honour". The list of Achievements has been extracted from the Croquet New Zealand Year Book and from “The History of Croquet”by D.M.C. Prichard, published by Cassell 1981.