



January 2017

From the President

Happy New Year!

I hope you have had a great start to 2017, and may it continue. I've had a fantastic start with the Golf Croquet Nationals being played in Nelson, NZ Open at Mount Maunganui, and visiting Matamata, Te Aroha, Morrinsville and Epsom Remuera Clubs in January.

I was honoured to help celebrate **Matamata** Club's opening of their new purpose built facility and grounds. Too often we don't celebrate the hard earned aspects of croquet. Matamata Club struggled in the past and now it is energized and flourishing with about 70 members. What made the difference? Two people who took the leadership to make it happen in 18 months. **Allan Bruce**, Club President, teamed with **Allan Elliott** and the newly elected **Committee** to make the Club's dream a reality. With their energy and willingness to take each challenge as an opportunity, they made the difference. They created the energy within the club that continues to grow. They designed and built a facility that they are proud of and for the rest of us and their community to enjoy. I was also impressed with Mayor Jan Barnes' support of the project. It is definitely a winning combination. I hope you will have a chance to play at their club.



L – R: Allan Bruce - Matamata Club Pres; Mayor Jan Barnes, Annie Henry – CNZ President

While I was in the neighbourhood I visited Te Aroha and Morrinsville Clubs and met members who were enjoying croquet that day. Next was a stop at the Upper North Island Golf Croquet Teams Championship hosted by Croquet Auckland. Both Presidents **Maida Beetson** (Croquet Auckland) and Club President **Bob Beetson** welcomed everyone to their lovely lawns for the event. Tournament Manager **Dave Butcher** developed an amazing draw where singles and doubles were played throughout each day. This variety took a great deal of thought. I was impressed with the organisation of all aspects of the tournament. I also picked up the idea of each team having a manager of the team. For the Upper North Island this is standard practice. For other parts of our country this would be a new idea. What a great way to help people learn how to manage a team. This is definitely growing it from the grassroots. Well done! I had the privilege of opening the tournament by running the first hoop. Since I wasn't planning on playing I didn't have my mallet. Thanks to Angus Coulter for the loan of his.

Visiting clubs and associations provides an opportunity to hear concerns and answer questions about CNZ. I would like to talk with you about what I've heard and to hear your comments. This will be in a separate section of the Croquet Matters.

One area that I would like to discuss is Croquet Matters. The Executive has received a wide range of feedback on Croquet Matters. The intent of Croquet Matters is to keep members informed about what is happening at all levels of croquet—club, association (region), national and sometimes international. Sharing ideas and information makes our clubs, regions and national organisation stronger. From visiting clubs and associations around the country I have gained a greater understanding of the innovative ideas that exist. I also see where we have gaps in our information process. For example, a player was going to withdraw from a competition because of unexpected car maintenance. When she was advised of possible billets available, this changed the course of history for her. The question that I ask is how we can create a publication that members look forward to reading. This question is being discussed by the newly formed CNZ Publicity Committee.

The CNZ Publicity Committee is developing activities from the strategic plan to help answer that question as well as others. The Committee believes that we need to know more about our members and what they want before changing things. When a questionnaire is developed and sent to clubs in the future, please be sure to complete it. Your input is valued and needed.

Congratulations to all the winners of the various tournaments. I specifically would like to congratulate **Josh Freeth and Hamish McIntosh** for winning the Golf Croquet (GC) National Open Doubles and to **Edmund Fordyce** for winning the GC National Open Singles and **Josh Freeth** as Runner Up.

Congratulations to **Aiken Hakes and Edmond Fordyce** for winning the Association Croquet

(AC) NZ Open Doubles and to **Aiken Hakes** for winning the AC NZ Open Singles and to **Greg Bryant** as Runner Up. Well done to all of you! The GC and AC Open Tournaments are New Zealand's top ones. Watching, as well as playing, in tournaments that challenge us inspires us to continue to hone our skills.

Best of luck to the 17 Under 21s competing in the GC World's in Melbourne this month as well as all the NZ players competing in the World's GC Open in Melbourne.

Have a great February!

Warm regards,
Annie

Croquet NZ tournaments in Feb 2017

10-12 February
Women's AC Invitation
Marton

With the next AC Trans Tasman coming up in December 2017, this is a key selection event.

15-19 February
Men's & Women's Championship
Rangatira

Another opportunity for players to push for selection for the next AC Trans Tasman.

GC World Championships in Melbourne

The following players will represent NZ at the GC World Championships in Melbourne from 25 February to 5 March 2017:

Duncan Dixon
Jenny Clarke – 4 x Womens GC medallist
Hamish McIntosh – 2011 Bronze medallist
Hemi McLaren
Felix Webby
Josh Freeth
Lachy Hughes
John Christie
Dennis Bulloch
George Coulter
Mike Crashley

Under 21 Golf Croquet World Championships

The following players will represent NZ at the U21 Golf Croquet World Championships in Melbourne from 18-22 February 2017

Josh Freeth – 2015 Champion
Felix Webby – 2015 Bronze medallist
Edmund Fordyce – 2017 GC Nationals winner
Hemi McLaren
Lachy Hughes
George Coulter
Angus Coulter
Caitlin Smith
Jakob Smith
Kaleb Small
Jamie Fowler
Jason Hodgett
Chris Spittal
Jeff Gatchell
Connell Leahy
Declan Leahy
Grace Mohi

Laws Questions by Brian Boutel (Convenor of the CNZ Laws Committee)

Two questions about the Laws/Rules of Croquet have come up recently.

The first, asks whether a player who has very poor eyesight and can't see a distant hoop clearly, can use a leaf as a guide as to where to aim to run the hoop.

The question was asked about GC, but the same issue could arise in AC. The AC Laws are absolutely clear on this. Law 50 generally forbids the use of marks and markers "to assist the striker in gauging the strength or direction of a stroke...". No specific penalty is mentioned, but a referee could apply Law 55 to devise some suitable punishment.

For GC the same words are used, but in the Etiquette Rule (14(a)(10)). This means that there must be a warning before any action is taken, (unless the player has already been warned about a breach of etiquette). In doubles play, the striker's partner may assist with lining up the stroke, but must stand clear before the stroke is actually played.

These remarks apply to all competitive play, but in friendly, social play, one could be a little more relaxed about the rule.

The second question was raised by a player in a top-level AC tournament over Christmas. On a double-banked lawn, the striker in the second-colour game, playing White, rushed a ball across the lawn, causing it to collide with Red. He quickly placed White where Red should be, and chased after the other balls. Meanwhile, in the first-colour game, the striker was preparing to roquet Black. She missed the roquet, but her ball collided with White. She claimed a roquet, as White was exactly where Red should have been, and, had Red not been interfered with,

she would have roqueted it. How should the referee rule?

The Referee said no roquet, as White was not a ball of the game, it was an outside agency, just acting as a marker, and you can only roquet a live ball.

Could the aggrieved player have been granted a replay? Possibilities are under law 31(a) or 33(a). Law 31 requires that the striker has been misled "into adopting a line of play that he would not otherwise have adopted", but in this case she striker said she was always going to shoot at Black, so no luck there. Law 33(a) grants a replay after a ball is interfered with if certain conditions are met. One of these is that the interference might have prevented a roquet being made. Well, yes, if Red had been in its correct position it would have been roqueted, but it wasn't. Another factor is that, had Red, in its incorrect position, been hit, the roquet would have been allowed, and it would be unfair to double the striker's chances by given a roquet if her ball passed over either of the actual and correct positions of Red.

There is one more complication. The reasoning above is on the assumption that the interference had already occurred when the striker "finally took up her stance" for the attempted roquet of Black. In that case the can be no replay under law 33, and Law 27, which deals with playing with a ball misplaced, applies. But if the interference happened later, a replay under Law 33(a) is possible. While the player had not noticed the interference, she did not claim that it happened after she "finally took up her stance", so no replay was given.

If you have any interesting situations where you would like a ruling please let me know at brian@boutel.co.nz.

GC Nationals Review By Manager Annie Henry

From 13 to 80: National GC Championships

The first week of 2017 golf croquet players were battling for the Open Singles and Doubles and Limited Singles and Doubles. The Open was held at Nelson Hinemoa Club while the Limited was held in Richmond. The age range was from 13 to 80.

The Doubles were played first in the Open and the Limited. There were 16 teams in the Open. After a six hour tussle in playing the best of three 13 point games, Josh Freeth and Hamish McIntosh (Auckland) emerged as the winners against Duncan Dixon (Canterbury) and Grace Mohi (Taranaki) 7 – 1, 6 – 7, 7 – 6.

The Open Doubles Plate was won by the brothers, Declan and Connell Leahy (Manawatu-Wanganui) against Australian Peter Freer and Sue Roberts (Bay of Plenty) in two games.

The Limited Doubles had 8 teams that played a double round robin with a knock out. Hawke's Bay Colleen Reynolds and Jayne Powis won 7 – 5, 7 – 1 over Alister Russ and Mike Speak (Nelson).

Wally Codyre and youth Ellie Ross (Nelson) vied for the Limited Doubles Plate against Eleanor Hannay and Pam Seymour (Nelson). Hannay and Seymour won 5 – 7, 7 – 3, 7 – 4.

Open Singles had 35 contesting for the title of National GC Championship Singles. 27 year old Duncan Dixon (Canterbury) had won it 8 of the last 9 years. There were 4 seeded blocks of 9 playing the best of three over three days. Duncan Dixon (Canterbury), Phillip Drew (Auckland), Mike Crashley (Bay of Plenty), youth Connell Leahy (Manawatu-Wanganui) from Block A; youth Josh Freeth (Auckland), youth Felix Webby (Taranaki), Tony Stephens (Hawkes Bay), and Janine McHardy (Perth, AU) from Block B; youth Edmund Fordyce (South Canterbury), Hamish McIntosh (Auckland),

youth Lachlan Hughes (Manawatu-Wanganui), and Jace Hobbs (Nelson from Block C; and youth Hemi McLaren (Thames Valley), John Christie (Thames Valley), Nelson Morrow (Auckland), and Peter Freer (Canberra, AU) from Block D. Players Choice was used to determine the blocks for the KO.

Tony Stephens (Hawke's Bay) won the "Y" against Connell Leahy (Manawatu-Wanganui) 7 – 3, 7 – 4. Felix Webby (Taranaki) beat John Christie (Thames Valley) 7 – 3, 7 – 6 in the "Z" final.

In the Plate, the final was played between Doug Nottage (Nelson) and Declan Leahy (Manawatu-Wanganui) with Declan winning 7 – 1, 7 – 6.

Continuing with the Open Singles Knock Out semifinalists were youth Edmund Fordyce vs 8 time winner Duncan Dixon and Josh Freeth vs Hamish McIntosh. Fordyce won 7 – 5, 7 – 6 against Dixon. Freeth won 7 – 4, 7 – 5. Both progressed to the final.

The Open Singles Final was the best of 5. It started with Fordyce (South Canterbury) winning the first 3 hoops. Freeth (Auckland) came back to win the first game 7 – 5. The next game progressed similarly to the first game with Freeth winning 7 – 5. The third game Fordyce won the first 4 hoops and Freeth only replying with 3 for a win to Fordyce 7 – 3. Game four was a tussle with Fordyce winning 7 – 5. The final game Fordyce scored 6 hoops before Freeth made his first. Fordyce made the next hoop winning 7 -1. Edmund Fordyce from South Canterbury is the youngest player to ever win the GC National Open Singles in the 19 year history. Fordyce is 16 years old.

The Limited Singles were battling at the Richmond Croquet Club with 10 players. Youth Ellie Ross (Nelson) won all but 3 of her games in the double round robin. Youth Caitlin Smith (South Canterbury) was second, Eleanor Hannay (Richmond) was third, and Kate McLoughlin (Australia) was fourth going into the knock out. The knockout round was best of

three. Hannay beat Smith 7 -5, 7 – 4 and McLoughlin beat Ross 7 – 3, 7 – 6. Eighty year old Hannay progressed to the final beating McLoughlin 7 – 5, 7 – 6. Ross beat Smith for third place 7 – 4, 6 – 7, 7 – 5.

Thanks very much to Croquet Nelson, Nelson-Hinemoa Croquet Club and Richmond Croquet club for hosting the GC Nationals on their lawns.

Next year the GC Nationals Open and Limited Championship will be held in Hawke's Bay.



Open GC Doubles Final – Josh Freeth clearing red, watched by partner Hamish McIntosh & opponents Grace Mohi & Duncan Dixon



GC Nationals Open Singles winner Edmund Fordyce



Players and officials in the Open Singles



Declan (l) and Connell (r) Leahy (winners of the Open Doubles Plate with Annie Henry



Players in the Limited Doubles



Josh Freeth (r/u Open Singles) and Edmund Fordyce (winner) with Annie Henry



Collen Reynold and Jayne Powis (winners of the Limited Doubles) with Annie Henry



Kate McLoughlin (l) (r/u Limited Singles) and Eleanor Hannay (r) (winner) with Annie Henry

NZ Open Review By Greg Bryant

Wellingtonian Aiken Hakes won his first NZ Open title at Mount Maunganui on Monday 23rd January, defeating top seed Greg Bryant (West Coast) in a nail biting 5 game final 16-26TP, 26TP-7, 13-26TPO, 24-22, 24-9.

Equal 3rd's in the Open went to Chris Shilling (Otago) for the 2nd consecutive year, and Josh Freeth (Auckland) in his first NZ Open appearance.

The Open 'Y' was won by Dennis Bulloch (Nelson) over Edmund Fordyce (Sth Canterbury) 0-26TP, 26-5, 26-23. Fordyce achieved his Gold Merit Award earlier in the Y event with his first TP in competition, then celebrated the achievement by immediately rattling off another 3 triple peels consecutively!

Earlier in the week, Hakes teamed up with 16 year old Edmund Fordyce (Sth Canterbury) to win the NZ Doubles title over Auckland Pair Aaron Westerby and Josh Freeth 26TP-13, 24-17.

The Heenan Plate event was won by Greame Fisher (Wgtn) over John Christie 26-22, 26-0.

Josh Freeth was awarded the Charles Jones Salver for best performance by a player off handicap 0 or higher by reaching the Open Semi Final after defeating #2 Seed Paul Skinley (Wgtn) in the quarter final 3 games to 1. His handicap of scratch had reduced to -1.5 at the conclusion of the event.

Thank you to the BoP Croquet Association, Club Mt Maunganui, Management team and volunteers.



First time NZ Open Singles winner Aiken Hakes with Manager Dallas Cooke



NZ Open Doubles Winners Aiken Hakes and Edmund Fordyce



Graeme Fisher wins the Heenan Plate



Josh Freeth wins the Charles Jones Salver

Health and Safety Manuals

- Specifically designed for croquet clubs
- Customised to suit individual clubs
- Fully OSH compliant
- Cost \$175.00

Enquiries to Tom Devlin 027 457 1409

Or devlin.family@xtra.co.nz

A fundraising initiative of the Fendalton Park Croquet Club

Merit Awards

Edmund Fordyce – Gold

Logan McCorkindale - Silver

David Brown - Bronze

Qualifications

Vilna Gough-Jones – Gc Ref

Pam Green – AC Referee

Monica Huisman – AC Referee

Annabelle Neall – AC Referee

Note:

The Tournament Committee is aware that some of the players selected for the Gordon Smith GC invitation were outside the advertised handicap range. The selectors used their discretion to select players due to the upcoming U21 GC Worlds in Melbourne.

From the Regions

CROQUET TARANAKI INC.

December and January had been a busy couple of months with the finals of Interclub golf croquet competition which has been enjoyable with the 4 clubs Inglewood, Tasman, West End and New Plymouth. Final results after 6 rounds were for the -6 to 5 h/c West End with 33 wins, New Plymouth 21 wins.

The 6-16h/c winners were New Plymouth had 38 wins winning the Ron Johnston Shield; West End 28 wins, Inglewood 16 wins, and Tasman 16 wins.

Golf Croquet Silver Badge for North Taranaki was played at West End winners were Senior Grade, Leo Crummey West End, Intermediate Sandra Robinson West End; Primary Bruce Carter Tasman.

Silver Badge for Association Croquet B Grade was won by M Paynter Inglewood.

The winners will play in the North vs South Taranaki Silver Buttons competition on 11th February.

Brogden Tray 9-16h/c golf croquet was played at West End with 10 players all from New Plymouth Croquet Club was played in 2 Sections. Section 1 winner was M Hodges Section 2 S Cottam so a play off was played winner being M Hodges.

It was great to see new player's participating in a competition several have only joined this year. The last competition for January is for the Taranaki Team of Moya Lewis, Nola Batchelor, Bruce Robinson and Sandy Mitchell to play in Wellington at the Lower North Island Team Event at the end of the month



Bruce Carter Primary grade winner, shaking hands with the tournament manager Glenys Capstick



Leo Crummey Senior grade winner, and Sandra Robinson Intermediate grade winner

Orewa Croquet Club - Stunning Croquet

Thrilling conclusions to a brilliant four days of top class croquet at the 26th Annual Maygrove Village Association Croquet tournament, with Orewa Club members Carol Pugh and Jeanne Webber taking an outright five wins from 5 games over all-comers in the Handicap Doubles competition. After the first day, they had a clear lead with three games while two other pairs were on two wins. Pugh and Webber continued their winning way in the morning, leaving them the afternoon to clinch the Doubles title. The Mt Albert/Pt Chevalier combo of Amanda Willis and Kim Osborne needed to win their afternoon game to have any chance of at least tying with the Orewa pair but were pipped by one point. In the world-ranking Open Singles championship competition, Warkworth club member, Nelson Morrow took out the title and the cup for the third year in a row with a five games clean sweep. His hold on the cup went down to the last game where he fought back from a twenty-point deficit to reach the maximum twenty-six points and overcome another world-ranked player in Jim Wardle (Takapuna) with a stunning and exciting win by just four points.

Orewa club member Carol Pugh took out the 4-plus side of the Singles tournament with a comprehensive four-straight win.

Tournament results:

26th Annual Maygrove Village Association Croquet tournament:

- Handicap Doubles:
 1. Carol Pugh (Orewa) & Jeanne Webber (Orewa)
 2. Amanda Willis (Mt Albert) & Kim Osborne (Pt. Chevalier)
 3. Ross Sutton (Thames) & Chris Browne (Thames)
- Open Championship Singles:
 1. Nelson Morrow (Warkworth) – 26/3TP, 26/2, 26/15, 26/19, 26/22
 2. Jim Wardle (Takapuna)
 3. Keith Wallace (Orewa)
- 4-Plus Championship Singles:

1. Carol Pugh (Orewa) - 26/4, 22/5, 26/8 & 18/16
2. Jaqui Anderson (Epsom/Remuera)
3. Kim Osborne (Pt Chevalier)



Nelson Morrow receiving his trophy



Keith Wallace on his way to pegging out



Carol Pugh and Jeanne Webber collecting their trophies

Piako Tournament (see flyer at end of newsletter)

At the request of some regular tournament participants for a three day tournament, which would accommodate those travelling long distances Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha croquet clubs pondered the idea of trialling this idea as a tournament involving all three clubs.

Through the inaugural meetings discussions on format, venues, catering etc were decided on. Then the question of when would it be held.

Easter 2017 was the chosen date. Format is two days of level doubles and one day of level singles.

Which clubs would host what???

Matamata have just moved to their brand new lawns and club rooms with six lawns and both Morrinsville and Te Aroha have four/five lawns. Morrinsville and Te Aroha will host the doubles on Easter Saturday and Sunday with Matamata the singles and prize giving on Easter Monday. With the format and venues decided - what about a sponsor?

We have been incredibly fortunate in securing an extremely generous sponsorship from Hear Me – an new audiology firm specialising in hearing problems and hearing aids. This has enabled us to have a very exciting range of prizes.

There are still vacancies available for committed golf croquet players to enter this our inaugural Easter tournament.

Club level CNZ Competitions for EVERYONE!

Club Captains – Add this to your notice board & set up your club draws for all your members to enter into. Club matches can happen at any time... provided the event is completed before the provincial or national cut-off dates for playoffs (see your Association or Appendix 5 of the CNZ Yearbook on page 230)

Keep a copy of your competition charts – club member entries in these events at club level count towards the Croquet NZ Club Participation Award!



Thanks to Philippa Porter for the graphic idea



more people playing better croquet more often

CLOSING DATE closing date of 5.00 p.m. 15th February 2017

Piako Easter Tournament 2017

3 Days at 3 Clubs

Morrinsville, Te Aroha & Matamata Clubs

All games will be 13 point LEVELS, with no time limit.

Entries are now being received, (first in first served)

General:

- Every accepted entrant is guaranteed two days of doubles play. (Weather permitting)
- Entry into the Singles is by ballot.
- When entries close, ballot for the Singles draw will be finalised.
- After entries are closed all accepted entrants will be notified of their entry fee.
- Cost: \$20.00 per day per competitor
- All Prize giving will be done at Matamata after the completion of the Singles.
- **Extra-ordinary \$\$\$ prize pool. The sponsor has stipulated the \$\$\$ go into the prize pool and not the clubs coffers.**

DOUBLES: (Days 1 & 2: Saturday 15th April & Sunday 16th April 2017)

- Dependant on the number of entries & handicaps. There will be a minimum of two Divisions.
- In each division there may be two pools - A & B. Competition will be Round Robin format.
- Play offs to determine winners of each Division will be required.
- **Location of Play: At Te Aroha, Division 2 & Morrinsville, Division 1**

SINGLES: (Day 3, Monday 17th April 2017) at Matamata on their new lawns at their new location.

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\$2700.00 in Prize Money

Contact Details:

Email: piako.easter.croquet@gmail.com

Postal Address: Piako Easter Tournament ,
c/- P.O.Box 406, Morrinsville



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Exclusive Sponsor for the Piako Easter Tournament 2017