



Autumn 2017

From the President

Congratulations! Congratulations!
Congratulations! What fantastic results our
players have had at the World's.

Congratulations to:

- **Felix Webby** for Winning the Gold at the World's U21 GC Championship and bronze medallist in the World's GC Championship
- **George Coulter** for Winning the Silver at the World' U21 GC Championship and the Plate at the World's GC Championship
- **Josh Freeth** for winning Bronze at the World's U21 GC Championship
- **Edmund Fordyce** for Winning the Bowl at the World's U21 GC Championship
- **Hemi McLaren** for Winning the Plate at the World's U21 GC Championship
- **Duncan Dixon** for winning the Shield at the World's GC Championship

AND—New Zealand has won the first Test of the MacRobertson Shield against USA. If you haven't been on croquet scores, check it out. You can also google MacRobertson Shield and see the official website and live streaming of the play. It is only one lawn but well worth it.

Nine of the 32 Knockout places at the World's GC Championships went to our NZ players. Over a quarter of the finalist were from NZ.

I believe this speaks volumes for the level of competition that New Zealand provides. Please note that they all started within your clubs. The invitation, encouragement and coaching gave them a strong foundation from the club. The youth development programme, national coaching and the tournaments support development of all players. It is all of us working together at all levels that make a difference. I hope that each region is broadcasting the news in your community.

What an excellent results. I think we should give a standing ovation to all of our players. They are strong competitors.

Congratulations to everyone who has taken the challenge to play in tournaments and has worked for those hard fought wins. I hope all of you have had a great season and have met your goals, whether it be to win the NZ Open or GC Nationals or win a competition at your club level. It is all part of enjoying our sport. I realise some clubs will continue playing during the winter and I hope you have a fantastic season.

Where I've been lately

Thanks to the associations (regions) and clubs that I've been able to visit the past couple of months. My gracious host, **Glenys Capstick**, gave me quite a tour of the New Plymouth area. I was able to watch a bit of the Yvonne Yeates while I was there playing in the Duncan Dixon. Next I met with the Canterbury Association. Thanks to CA President **Owen Evans** for arranging a meeting that was very productive. Areas critical to the wellbeing of the region were discussed. While in Counties Manukau I was hosted by **Jenny and Alex Begg** and learned more about the area. The season ended with me visiting Southland thanks to Southland's

President **Judith Hamilton**. I was able to meet with some of the key people in the clubs in that region. I was hosted by **Fran Gibson** and her husband who introduced me to Invercargill and Bluff. I was also on hand to help **Joyce Millow** celebrate playing croquet for 50 years. It was a gorgeous fall day to have a hit and enjoy the camaraderie while celebrating a player who has given so much to croquet in her region. While I was there I was able to visit the **Winton Club**. Unfortunately it was raining so we had a lovely morning tea.

When I visit the regions and clubs I always gain new insights into their challenges. It is a time to share ideas and learn about them. It is also an opportunity to talk about what is happening at CNZ. I have visited either the association and/or clubs in the following regions this year: Auckland, Bay of Plenty (Mt Manganui), Canterbury, Counties Manukau (Pukekohe), Hawke's Bay (Heretaunga), Nelson, Southland, Taranaki (New Plymouth clubs), Thames Valley (Morrinsville), and Waikato-King Country (Matamata and Te Aroha). I look forward to visiting the rest of the regions.

Elections

Soon clubs and associations will be electing their officers and committees for the year. I honour those who have held those leadership positions and the dedication they have to croquet. I also applaud those who are taking on the mantle of your club and association. It is important to have people who work for the club and our sport. Thank you to those who have served your club and association and thank you to those who are standing for your committee.

Croquet Matters

This will be **the last Croquet Matters** until the Publicity Committee decides what changes we would like to make for the next year. We have received some feedback from clubs about what they would like to see in Croquet Matters and will continue to receive feedback. We appreciate EVERYONE'S input to what type of communications you would like from us. It would be great if ALL associations (regions) would

send their thoughts to us. Please address them to annie58@ihug.co.nz.

Have a great winter!

Warm regards,

Annie

GC Nationals Open Doubles

If someone did NOT receive the group photo, please let Annie know so she can send it to you. Her email is annie58@ihug.co.nz.

From the Executive

Tournament Committee

The CNZ tournament Committee met recently and have made the following changes to the CNZ Calendar for 2017/18

1. There will no longer be a 0-3 & 4+ tournament. It was felt that players did not like travelling when the event was in the other island. However, a 0-3 section will be added to the North Island Champs and the South Island Champs (there is already a 4+ event in these championships).
2. The limited singles and limited doubles in the Golf Croquet Nationals have been cancelled. Again, these events have seen predominately local entrants in recent years. However, there will be a new award for the "Best Performed 3+ player" in the same ilk as the Charles Jones Memorial Salver in the AC Nationals;
3. The Women's GC tournament will no longer have a 5+ section.
4. The Gordon Smith GC Invitation will move from being a 4+ handicap event to a 3+ tournament.
5. Several tournaments have been moved due to the AC World Championships being hosted in Wellington from 3-11 February 2018.

The Executive Director will be in touch with associations shortly about changed tournament dates, and to confirm hosts for 2018/19 season.

Laws Committee

The laws committee recommended changes to the tournament regulations and the handicapping regulations (see updated documents at the end of the newsletter) which were approved by the Executive.

We have also agreed to make law 53 (b) (iii) the default option in all official AC tournaments.

Brian Boutel has been elected to chair the WCF Golf Croquet Rules Committee. One of the committees' tasks is to update the WCF GC Rules. This is well underway, but will probably not be ready to include into the 2017/18 yearbook, but might be finished by the end of the calendar 2017.

Player Development Committee

The Player Development Committee was extremely satisfied with the results from the recent U21 GC Worlds and the open GC Worlds.

A dominant performance in the U21s saw NZ win Gold (Felix Webby), Silver (George Coulter), and Bronze (Josh Freeth). Picking up the Plate (Hemi McLaren) and Shield (Edmund Fordyce) was very pleasing.

Felix continuing his great run of form saw him pick up a Bronze medal in the GC Worlds. The large number of NZ player who progressed through the KO gives a lot of hope for the future.

Eyes now turn to the MacRobertson Shield in the USA where the NZ team looks to defend the title, led by Captain Jenny Clarke.

All info as it comes to hand will be posted on the Croquet NZ website here

<http://croquet.org.nz/everything-to-do-with-the-2017-macrobotson-shield/>

Good luck team!

After this, there are two more international AC events scheduled... the Trans Tasman which will be played in Tasmania at the start of December, and the AC World Championships which will be played in Wellington in early February 2018.

Publicity Committee

Stephen Fordyce suggested putting together a brochure that outlines what CNZ and the Executive does, as many players do not know.

The committee wishes to ensure that all Associations have a publicity officer.

The committee is also keen to develop promotional videos for both AC and GC.

The 2013 questionnaire is to be revisited so that the committee may use the information to determine any relevant trends within the sport.

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

An interesting issue arose twice in recent AC tournaments when players claimed a wiring lift because their shot was hampered by a hoop. What was unusual about this was that it was the hoop carrots protruding above the ground that prevented the free swing of the mallet.

it's strange that an issue that most people had never thought about should occur twice within a few weeks, but sometimes these things happen.

It's quite normal to leave carrots slightly up, so that they can be gradually knocked down through the event in order to keep the hoops firm in the ground, but a player is always entitled to have them knocked down to avoid this kind of difficulty with a shot. This is because, technically, hoops with raised carrots are not legal, as the laws require the uprights to be approximately parallel and have a uniform diameter above the ground. The laws also say that any wiring test must be carried out before the hoops are adjusted, so there is a bit of a problem.

There is a precedent, dating back to the MacRobertson Shield in 1974, that says that

carrots are to be ignored when making wiring decisions, so if it is only the carrot that is affecting the proposed shot, no lift should be awarded. The offending hoop may then be adjusted before the shot is played. Pending any official ruling by the WCF AC Laws Committee, this precedent should be followed.

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

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

Michael Hardman (Rose Gardens) – Silver
Rick Turner (Pukekohe) – Silver
David Bown (Aorangi) - Bronze
Logan McCorkindale (Waireka) – Silver
Chris Heath (Leith – Bronze
Lois Morris (Thames) – Bronze
Chris Conroy (Whangamata) – Bronze
Jacqueline Anderson (Epsom/Rem) - Silver

Qualifications

John Bailey (Pukekohe) – GC Ref
Gail Rubick (Pukekohe) – GC Ref
Sally Cole, (Carlton) – GC Ref
Susan McKessar (Pt. Chevalier) – GC Ref
Chris Plank (Carlton) – GC Ref
Kurt Warn (Pakuranga) – GC Ref
Ken Dowling – GC Ref
Josh Smith – requalified GC Ref

Janet Boutel (Kelburn) AC Referee

From the Regions

Manawatu-Wanganui

Golf Croquet Silver Badges 2017.

Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui's Golf Croquet Silver Badge Finals took place on 26 March, and saw 18 players, from five of CMW's six clubs participate.

In the Premiere Grade, André Murray of Rose Gardens was a clear winner, being unbeaten in his five games.



Ken

Frank Callear was a clear winner in an all-Rose Gardens battle for the Intermediate Grade, winning five of his six games. Gordon Thompson of Marton, 4 wins+8 won the Primary Badge in a countback from Elwi El Beshlaw (Rose Gardens) 4 wins+7. It was good effort from Elwi, in his first season.



André

Ken Dowling of Feilding won the Senior Grade, on a countback from Ian Power of Rangatira.



Gordon

It was good day's competition. Involving players from most CMW Clubs, with the winners coming from three clubs.



Frank, with Manager and CMW President, Michael Hardman

Manawatu Secondary Schools Qualifying Tournament

Played at Rose Gardens Croquet Club, this event saw a number of secondary school teams competing to represent Manawatu in the New Zealand Secondary Schools Golf Croquet Championship, in Hamilton in September. Of the eleven teams competing, four will go through to the national finals, in addition to any wild cards that might be allocated. Despite a delayed start, because of the rain affected lawns, the event was completed in good time. The standard of play was good and the good humour and conduct of the



It was wet, and, is the referee coming?

Winners: Freyberg HS (Nicholas & Izzy),
Runners up: Feilding HS (Charlie & Bailey)

The following four teams have qualified for the Secondary Schools New Zealand Championship, to be held in Hamilton in September: Freyberg High School (Nicholas & Izzy), Feilding High School (Charlie & Bailey), Palmerston North Boys High School, Palmerston North Girls High School.



Association Croquet Silver Badges

CM-W's AC Silver Badges Competition took place on Sunday March 19th. The A Grade at Marton Croquet Club and the other Grades on the Rose Gardens lawns. Players from three of the Association's six Clubs took part.

David Winmill of Marton won the A Grade Badge from fellow club member Robert McLay. In the Intermediate Grade, four Rose Gardens members played off, to see the Badge going to Max Charlton, with Michael Hardman, runner up on a countback. Connell Leahy of Levin beat Rex Oliver (Rose Gardens) in the B Grade, and Lynda Thompson (Marton) beat Nicholas Flood of Rose Gardens in a close match for the C Grade Badge.



players impressed tournament managers and spectators alike. Our best wishes go to those who will compete in Hamilton.



Lynda seems happy!



A joyful Max, with CM-W President, Michael Hardman.



Connell receiving his Badge

It was good to see young players, Connell and Nicholas taking part. Connell, of course, won a badge, and Nicholas lost a tense best of three battle with Lynda, who won 13-15, 17-16, 17-15.

Annual croquet event a success

A full field of players competed in the 4th annual Forrest Funeral Services Golf Croquet tournament on Friday 24th February at the Orewa Croquet Club. The twenty players were split into two divisions and the number of wins decided the eventual winners. Visiting pair Jean Kent & Rod Christensen from Waipu made it a clean sweep with five wins from five games displaying consistent hoop-running technique and ball placement skills. Local members John Merredew and Pat Windleburn finished second with four wins and another local duo of Lesley Dallimore and Lynn Smith finished third with three wins on count back. Tournament organiser, Rose-Marie Letcher, said "This is one of the most successful events on the Club's calendar, with the handicap system producing close results from players, with a wide range of abilities".

Five one-hour games were played in sunny but very humid conditions. For more information about our Club, just visit www.orewacroquet.co.nz



Rod Christensen & Jean Kent with club president Lesley Dallimore



Pixie Jones Meredew

The Kaiapoi Croquet Club held a very successful Kai Moana fun day on March the 1st. Teams from around Christchurch were invited to take part and all 32 places were filled.

The Kaiapoi team dressed as Pirates and decorated the grounds with pirate ships, whales, whale tails and life belts. A lot of fun was had by all. The day finished with the Kaiapoi team cooking a fish and chip meal for the guests. Wait until you see what we have planned for next year!!
Regards
Jan Chisnall -Kaiapoi Club Captain.



Fendalton Park

Fendalton Park Croquet Club continues to be a well-supported, happy and active club. When weather permitted we had club days on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday afternoons and some twilight evenings on Thursdays. Club championships have had an increase in participation in all grades and trophies have been keenly contested. On 9 February we held our annual Twilight Tournament sponsored by Travel 2U. The evening was well supported by clubs from Cashmere, St James, St Martins, Kaiapoi and Ashburton. The format of a break between games and continuous food (BBQ etc.) was very well received – once again the day was a successful fund raising venture. The winner was Brian Perwick (who also ensured we had amazing lawns for the event); second Ann Scott from St James and third Judy Orsbourne. On 26 February we held our annual Newcomers Trophy Tournament. Once again it was a very successful event and much enjoyed and appreciated by participants - this year the quality of play across the field was of a very high standard for “new to croquet” players. Unfortunately the weather didn’t play its part and only 3 rounds (from 5) were played. The winner was Mike Woodlock, with runner-up Lesley Law. FPCC have supported other Canterbury clubs with their interclub social days. In particular FPCC achieved much success at Waireka Club in Ashburton and a novelty social day at Kaiapoi where we all became fish species and the meal was fish and chips. Fendalton has enjoyed Interclub success with Louis Inglewood winning the Maud Trainor competition held at United on Wednesday mornings – 7 wins from 8 games. Vilna Gough-Jones was the winner of the South Island GC Veterans (junior) held at United in March.



Furthermore, Louis Inglewood was awarded the CCA Geoffrey Naylor Award for the Most Improved GC player.



The end of season trip to Central Coast NSW is progressing to plan. All travel, accommodation and matches with host clubs have been confirmed. Nine clubs will be hosting us and we look forward to meeting our Australian counterparts and making new friends. Our AGM is scheduled for Saturday 20 May with some mystery events planned with our lawns being out of action, our prize-giving and an afternoon tea. Our midwinter lunch as a fund raiser is scheduled for 1 July. All in all, a happy, active club.

SOUTHPORT CROQUET CLUB INC

(Established 1935)

1 Queen Street Southport Qld 4215

The Southport Croquet Club situated on the Gold Coast in Queensland is holding its annual Tournament *Mallet Sports on the Broadwater* from Saturday June 24th to Friday June 30th 2017. This tournament includes 3 Mallet Court codes i.e. Gateball, Ricochet and Golf Croquet.

We would like to make this tournament know to New Zealander Croquet players, many of whom holiday on the Gold Coast at this time of the year. We wondered if you would be able to distribute the attached flyer to the NZ clubs easily or let us know how we can do that.

This tournament is followed by the Gold Coast Tweed Regional(GCTR) Tournament for Association Croquet and therefore is a good fore runner for those who play any of the other codes. In the past we have had some Golf Croquet players enter prior to attending the GCTR Tournament.

The details of the tournament are included in the attached information.

Barbara Northcott
Tournament Manager and President
Southport Croquet Club
Ph 61 7 55775079

It has been pleasing to see different club members winning in a range of competitions. The Saturday morning doubles competition was a new event and was won this year by Esme Burt and Andi Maitland. Our Greenkeepers doubles competition over 4 Saturday afternoons with a senior player teamed up with a junior player was keenly contested up to the final round on 8 April. The winning team was Marion Bishop and Bob Sanders. The final round also marked the closing of play for the season with extensive lawn renovations being undertaken from 10 April. The club has also been successful in the purchase of a “new” second hand mower from down south - much to the joy of Brian our grounds manager. We are grateful to club members for the active participation in fund-raising activities, as well as for grants received that have made this purchase possible. Our lawns have been used by corporate groups as well as groups from local retirement villages. All have reported much enjoyment and an appreciation of being able to use our facilities.

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

Regulation Changes

Tournament Regulations 5 and 16 have been changed to reduce the requirements for the Tournament Management Committee, but to make sure they are adhered to.

The AC Handicapping Regulations have been rewritten so that they include GC, and a redundant part of the GC Rules covering the same ground has been deleted. The revised text will now appear in the Yearbook just before the Tournament Regulations, not after the AC Laws.

The changed regulations are reproduced below.

Part B:

5. Tournament Management Powers and Duties

5.1 Tournament Management Committee

The Tournament Management Committee (TMC) consists of the Tournament Manager and Tournament Referee. Should these roles be filled by the same person, a second member must be appointed in order to consider appeals made under regulation 16. If the Tournament Referee is the only Authorised Referee, another Qualified Referee, who may be not physically present, must be appointed, and be available to consider appeals made under Regulation 22. The Tournament Management Committee is also responsible for considering non-automatic changes to players' handicaps.

5.1.1 For the NZ Open and the National Golf Croquet Tournaments the Executive of CNZ ("the Executive") will appoint the Tournament Manager and the Tournament Referee. For all other Council tournaments, the host associations should appoint the TMC and submit the membership of the TMC to the Executive for approval. For other tournaments the organisers should appoint the TMC.

5.1.2 Each Association or Club wishing to hold an Official Tournament must appoint a Manager, and a Tournament Referee

who shall together constitute the Tournament Management Committee and who shall be responsible, insofar as the duties of each are herein defined, for the administration, interpretation and enforcement of the Laws and these Regulations.

5.2 Tournament Manager

5.2.1 It is the duty of the Manager to manage the tournament in all respects and to ensure that it is as enjoyable as possible for players, officials, spectators and all others involved.

5.2.2 From the time of appointment the Manager may act, in consultation with those organising the tournament, to meet the obligations specified in these regulations assuming primary responsibility for organising and running the tournament on receipt of the entries.

- 5.2.3 For Official Tournaments the Manager shall determine for each event the number of entries that the capacity of the lawns and the duration of the tournament will allow, where this is not laid down in the tournament advertisement.
- 5.2.3.1 Entries received before the closing date should be held and considered together on or as soon as possible after that date.
- 5.2.3.2 If the number of entries then exceeds the number of places available, the current trophy holders shall be given priority, then in Council Tournaments players shall be ranked and then accepted in order from lowest to highest of their NZ handicaps at that date, up to the number of places available. For entrants without a NZ handicap, Regulation 11 of the NZ Handicapping Regulations will apply. However for the NZ Open the players shall be ranked after the Title Holder, firstly by their World Ranking and then for players without a listed World Ranking by their NZ handicap, as above. The Manager has the right to allocate one or two wild card entries for players without a current World ranking.
- 5.2.3.3 For events for which there is a previous qualifying event, the Tournament Management Committee may reserve a previously advertised number of places to be allocated on the results of the qualifying tournament.
- 5.2.3.4 Surplus entrants should be notified as soon as possible and placed on a reserve list in the order in which they would have been accepted, if additional places had been available.
- 5.2.3.5 If not oversubscribed at the closing date, all the entries submitted shall be accepted subject to the provision specified in 5.2.10 below.
- 5.2.3.6 After the closing date, entries may only be accepted with the agreement of the Manager, and a surcharge of 50% of the entry fee may be imposed. All money received in late entries must be sent to the Executive director by the manager.
- 5.2.3.7 Entry fees must be refunded in full to unsuccessful applicants.
- 5.2.4 All Managers should ensure that they are fully familiar with these Regulations and the tournament handicap conditions for the particular tournament and events they are managing.
- 5.2.5 The Manager shall ensure that standard or modified lawns are available, laid out and equipped in accordance with the Laws (Rules), and shall also provide balls identical in type and manufacture to those listed in the tournament advertisement.
- 5.2.6 Before the tournament the Manager shall prepare charts for the recording of scores of games in accordance with the method of play being used.
- 5.2.7 At the beginning of the tournament the Manager shall inform the players which method of play is being used in each event and ensure that this is recorded on the charts.
- 5.2.8 Before play commences in the tournament, the Manager shall check that players' handicaps are accurately recorded on tournament records.
- 5.2.9 Finishing dates shall be strictly adhered to. Unless extreme weather or other unforeseen emergency intervenes, each event of a tournament shall finish on, and not before, the advertised date.
- 5.2.10 The Manager or nominee has the power to refuse any entry and, after due consultation, the right of deciding any question which may arise regarding such refusal, but must give on request the reason(s) to the person refused.
- 5.2.11 For Council tournaments, the Executive Director shall forward all necessary charts and instructions and all the entry forms to the Manager as soon as possible after the closing date.
- 5.2.12 The Manager shall supervise the draw or nominate another to do so, subject to any requirements specified for the particular event(s).
- 5.2.13 In Official Tournaments, the Manager shall decide the order of play, and for Council tournaments shall take into account any instructions received from the Executive Director.
- 5.2.14 In events restricted to specified handicap ranges the Manager shall draw the players in their appropriate event as entered on their application forms, except where a handicap change that occurred between preparing the entry and the closing date is notified.

- 5.2.15 Players who become ineligible for the event in which they were drawn through a handicap change before the closing date, shall be removed from that part of the competition and shall instead be drawn in their correct event.
- 5.2.16 The Manager shall enter on the charts the names (as listed in the Yearbook), current handicaps and associations of all players.

16. Liability to be Scratched or Disqualified

16.1 A player shall be liable to be disqualified under Regulations 12.3, 12.6 and 15.1 above.

16.2 A player shall also be liable to be disqualified at the discretion of the Tournament Referee or a Referee in Charge of a Game.

16.3 At the discretion of the Manager, a player shall be liable to be disqualified for any of the following:

16.3.1 being absent or otherwise unable to play when called upon, or failing to comply with any direction of the Manager, Referees or the Tournament Committee;

16.3.1.1 Nevertheless, a player whose unavailability is expected to be temporary may appeal to the Tournament Committee against being required to play. The Tournament Committee may agree that the player should not be scratched if available to play again soon enough to ensure that all games in the event can still be reasonably completed within the scheduled period;

16.3.2 changing a set or part of a set of balls during a match or at any other time during the event without first having obtained the Manager's permission;

16.3.3 practicing on the lawn before or during the hours of play other than in accordance with Regulation 7.2;

16.3.4 failing to comply with a request from the Manager either to remedy a breach of clothing standards, or to wear flat-soled shoes;

16.3.5 misconduct.

16.4 In all cases of disqualification, players shall forfeit any entrance fees which they have paid, and shall return any prizes that may have been awarded to them.

16.5 In all cases of disqualification there is a right of Appeal to the Tournament Management Committee. The official whose ruling is being appealed should not hear the appeal, but should be replaced by a Deputy or if none is available by an independent knowledgeable person, who may be an experienced player in the tournament.

Croquet NZ Handicapping Regulations

These handicapping regulations apply to all Croquet Tournaments and competitions conducted in accordance with the CNZ Tournament Regulations.

1. Definitions:

1.1 **AHS card** means the Automatic Handicapping System Card issued by CNZ.

1.2 An **Association or Club Handicapper** is an official handicapper who has been elected or appointed to that position by the agreed procedures of the relevant association or club. In some cases the positions defined here may not be filled. Clubs and Associations should ensure that someone with relevant experience is available to perform the handicapper's duties when required. At club level this will normally be the Club Captain with advice from senior players.

1.3 Croquet **players** in these Regulations are members of croquet clubs in New Zealand who play Association or Golf Croquet. They are herein referred to as players.

1.4 A **tournament** is an Official Tournament or an Other Tournament as described in Tournament Regulation 2. Most tournaments are advertised in the Yearbook. A tournament may consist of a single event, but most tournaments consist of several discrete events, eg, Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Open Doubles, etc. Tournaments are governed by the Tournament Regulations.

1.5 An **event** is a single competitive event, open to a defined range of players, and expected to have a single winner, eg, Championship Singles for Handicaps 9–16, Women's Handicap, etc. Social events (Tournament Regulation 2.4) are excluded. An event may be part of a tournament, or may be independent of tournaments (eg, a club competition).

1.6 **Competitive games** are those which are part of an event. They are governed by the Tournament Regulations and the Laws of Association Croquet, and include but are not limited to

1.6.1 Tournament games

1.6.2 Interclub and inter-Association games; and

1.6.3 Club competitions

1.7 A **long-running competition** is a competition where individual games are played over a number of weeks or months (i.e. a competition not held on one day or over two or more consecutive days).

1.8 A player's **handicap** is a number used to determine the number of bisques or extra turns to be given or received in handicap play (AC Laws 37 and 46) and GC Rule 16). It may also determine whether the player is eligible for a particular event.

1.9 A player's **index** is a number recorded on the AHS card, which (usually) changes after each competitive singles game. When the index changes sufficiently, it will trigger a change in handicap (see the instructions on the AHS card).

2. Handicaps:

2.1 These regulations govern the administration of players' handicaps under the Laws of Association Croquet and Rules of Golf Croquet in New Zealand.

2.2 Handicaps for players shall be on a scale with a range from -4 to 24 for AC and -6 to 16 for GC with steps as set out on the AHS card.

2.3 Every player shall have an official handicap determined as below (paragraphs 3 and 4).

2.4 All players will be given an initial handicap by their Club when they start playing. Thereafter their handicap will change as described in paragraphs 3 and 4 below.

2.5 In handicap games players use the handicap shown on their card at the start of that game to decide entitlement to bisques or extra turns.

2.6 For level (non-handicap) singles games players use the handicap shown on their card at the start of the game to determine the index changes after the game.

2.7 Any player wishing to enter singles or doubles competitions or play competitive singles or doubles matches shall be entitled to do so only if they comply with these regulations.

3. Automatic Changes of Handicaps

3.1 The Automatic Handicapping System (AHS) is the primary method by which handicaps change.

3.2 Whenever players play a competitive AC singles game or competitive GC game, they update their AHS card according to the instructions on the card. In most cases this will result in a change in their index. When the index changes sufficiently, that will trigger a change in the player's handicap (see the instructions on the card).

3.3 Indexes do not change as a result of AC doubles play, except as in paragraph 4.

3.4 While indexes change after most games, handicaps only change when:

3.4.1 immediately after a game, the index has reached or passed the trigger point for a new handicap, or

3.4.2 before the next game played after a non-automatic handicap change is made.

3.5 Games for which index cards are to be updated are referred to as **eligible games**"

4. Non-Automatic Changes of Handicaps

4.1 In some situations the AHS is unable to respond, or unable to respond quickly enough, to changes in a player's ability. These situations include:

4.1.1 The player plays no or very few competitive singles games

4.1.2 The player's play improves or deteriorates so rapidly that the AHS cannot keep up.

4.2 In these situations, Handicappers are empowered to change players' handicaps. **For AC** handicaps they may make changes within the following limits: 24–20: any amount of change; Handicaps 18–12: no less than 2 steps reduction or any increase; Handicaps 10–scratch: no less than 3 steps reduction or any increase; Minus handicaps: no reductions but any increase. (The steps of handicap are shown on the AHS card. Each step corresponds to 2 bisques, 1 bisque, or 0.5 bisque at various places in the handicap scale). **For GC** handicaps there is no restriction on the amount of change permitted.

4.3 In making these changes, handicappers must be guided by considering what handicap the player needs to be on to compete effectively with other players who *are* playing sufficient competitive games for the AHS to be effective.

Guideline:

- 10 eligible games in a season will generally be sufficient to allow handicaps to change automatically.

4.4 Otherwise players' handicaps should be left to change automatically.

5. Players shall:

5.1 Complete an entry on their AHS card for each eligible game played.

5.2 Maintain an accurate record on their AHS card of all the eligible games they play and report their current handicap and index to Tournament or competition Managers at the start of an event.

5.3 If their handicap changes as a result of any game played in a competition, have the event Handicapper sign their card confirming the change before playing any other singles game.

5.4 Advise their Club Handicapper as soon as possible whenever their handicap changes.

5.5 Show their official cards to Tournament Managers and all handicappers on request.

Notes: Should players wish to keep a card of non-competitive games, they may do so, but this must be kept separate from the official card.

Beginning players should be encouraged by handicappers and clubs to keep unofficial cards of singles games for interest and experience, and to assist their Club Handicapper to assess their play.

6. Association Handicappers shall:

6.1 Assist Club Handicappers in understanding the handicapping system and these Regulations.

6.2 Co-operate with Club Handicappers when they are making non-automatic handicap changes, to ensure that a uniform standard applies throughout the association. This is particularly important when the player is playing in competitive events which may not qualify for AHS, eg, inter-club AC doubles events.

6.3 Where operating as a Tournament Handicapper, fulfil all the appropriate duties as in paragraph 9.

7. Club Handicappers shall:

7.1 Make any required non-automatic handicap changes for players within the Club and notify the Association Handicapper of the handicaps of these players when the changes are made. Any such changes must be in accordance with paragraph 4.2, and shall be effective immediately.

7.2 Check and sign the AHS cards of players whose handicaps change automatically as a result of games played.

7.3 Observe the play of club members during club or interclub competitions.

7.4 Optionally, provide a letter to accompany a club member who is about to enter a tournament/competition and is improving rapidly, addressed to the Tournament Manager suggesting that the player's handicap should be kept under review.

7.5 Keep a record of the current handicaps of all players within their club and provide assistance to those players requiring help in maintaining an accurate official AHS card.

7.6 Assign handicaps to new players in accordance with paragraph 9 below;

7.7 Update the Croquet New Zealand player database with the details of any player whose handicap has changed as a result of actions under 7.1, 7.2, or 7.6. A handicapper who does not have database access to make these changes must ensure they are made by an authorised person.

Guidelines:

- In making non-automatic handicap changes, Club Handicappers are expected to use the handicaps of other players with similar skills as benchmarks.
- Club Handicappers will not need to seek approval from elsewhere for any decisions they make about non-automatic handicap changes. However, advice may be sought from Association Handicappers if the Club Handicapper wishes, and must be sought if the player is going to play competitive games that may not qualify for AHS, eg, AC inter-club doubles.
- Clubs may require that non-automatic handicap changes for club members be determined by committee and in this case the Club Handicapper shall comply with the committee's decisions.

8. Tournament Committee Members shall:

8.1 Check that players' handicaps are accurately recorded on tournament records at the time they commence play in the tournament.

8.2 Update the Croquet New Zealand player database with details of any player whose handicap has changed automatically at the tournament, and any non-automatic changes to the handicap of any player determined by the Tournament Handicapper. A manager who does not have database access to make these changes must ensure that they are made by an authorised person.

8.3 Delegate the handicapping duties to Assistant Tournament Managers at the venues for which they are responsible.

8.4 Be responsible for all handicapping issues during a tournament.

8.5 Sign off AHS cards of all players when their handicaps change.

Guideline:

- When signing off a card for a handicap change, a Handicapper should check the calculations leading to the changes in handicap, and ensure that recent games have been properly entered on the card.

8.6 In tournaments or events have discretion to make non-automatic handicap changes at the beginning of or during any event for any player in accordance with paragraph 4.2. Any such changes shall be effective immediately.

8.7 Record and initial on a player's card, all non-automatic handicap changes as they are made.

Guidelines:

- Players may have their handicap changed before a game at any time (and from time to time) during the tournament in accordance with paragraph 4.2.
- Players judged to have handicaps too high by less than the amounts specified in paragraph 4.2 will be adjusted by the normal operation of the AHS.

9. New Players:

9.1 Club Handicappers shall assess each new player when they have joined the club as an affiliated player and are admitted to general club play. For GC the procedures in the Appendix to the WCF GC Rules should be used to assign them an initial handicap. For AC the handicapper should assign them a handicap from 16 to 24, based on the level at which they are best likely to compete.

9.2 Their starting AHS index will be the one corresponding to their starting handicap. The Club Handicapper must sign the card after assigning the initial handicap.

10. Foreign Players:

10.1 Foreign players from countries where CNZ has published an official table of equivalent handicaps will be assigned a NZ handicap based on their index. Other players will be assigned an initial handicap based on the handicaps of NZ Players of similar World Ranking.

10.2 This will be calculated and assigned by the Tournament Manager of the first tournament they enter.

10.3 Following that assignment, they shall be treated as any NZ player to whom the AHS applies.

11. Shortened Games:

The provisions of these Regulations shall apply to shortened games played under any of the official variations in AC Laws 44–46 and to any GC game played according to the Rules of GC.

FURTHER GUIDELINES

The official AHS card

- Instructions for use of this card are printed on the card.
- New AHS cards will be issued free of charge to all Clubs on request to the National Office.

Aim of the system

- The aim of the Automatic Handicapping System is to ensure that two players in a handicap game (or two players on the same handicap in a level game) have an equal chance of winning when they play each other.

The Automatic Handicapping System does this by adding points when games are won, and subtracting points when games are lost. These are called “index points”.

Index Points

- Each player is required to maintain an AHS card, which records the result of every eligible game and the index points added or subtracted.
- Index points increase after each win and decrease after each loss. The winner adds the number of points to his index that are shown on the AHS card for the handicaps of the two players involved. The loser subtracts the number of points shown in the same place on the AHS card. The number of points depends on whether the game is played handicap or level.
- For handicap singles games the number of points is always 10 (except in AC for players of handicap 12 or higher and in GC for players of handicap 14 or 16).
- For handicap doubles games in GC the number of points is 5 except for players of handicap (14 or 16).
- For level games the number of points varies depending on the handicaps of the two players.

Handicap Changes

- Winning games and thus accumulating index points can result in a player reaching or passing the “trigger point” for a handicap different from the player’s current handicap, at which time their handicap will reduce.
- Losing games and thus losing index points can result in a player reaching or passing the “trigger point” for a handicap different from the player’s current handicap, at which time their handicap will increase.