Kia ora,

I hope that everyone had a great celebration of your past season and are enjoying the winter. There has been quite a few happenings that you may want to know, if you don’t already. They are:

* MacRobertson Shield Test Series results
* Executive Director Murray Taylor accepting a new position
* Tribute to Murray Goldfinch
* Introduction of Executive Director Jake Inwood
* Introduction of Aaron Westerby onto the Executive
* Special General Meeting scheduled for 19 August
* Nominations for Executive due on 31 July to the National Office
* Award nominations due on 31 July to the National Office
* Club Participation Award updated

MacRobertson Shield Test Series

Jenny Clarke (captain) with teammates Paddy Chapman, Toby Garrison, Aiken Hakes, Joe Hogan, Chris Shilling, and Harps Tahurangi with manager Jarrod Coutts played in Palm Springs, California against Australia, England, and the USA. It was a debut performance for Aiken, Chris and Harps. The first Test was against the USA and **New Zealand** won it. It was a team effort to win the first test series. The tests against Australia and England were hard fought battles with some amazing games but without the results that we hoped to have. Australia won the MacRobertson Shield after 82 years. (Full results are on croquetscores.com).

The New Zealand team played extremely well to stand up against this level of association croquet. They had several difficulties to overcome with one player not being able to play for health reasons and the other’s visa was delayed. Lessons learned from this test series will influence how we prepare for the next one. We are proud of our team and their continual efforts to win.

If you haven’t watched a MacRobertson Shield Test Series, it is well worth seeing. Brian & Janet Boutel, Graeme Roberts, Alison Robinson, and my husband and I were fortunate to watch part or all of the MacRobertson Shield Test Series. Alison, Brian, and Graeme were referees for the test series.

Murray Taylor accepts position

Shortly after I started my holiday I received an email from Murray Taylor. It was his resignation letter. I wrote an email informing everyone a couple of weeks later but it appears that it wasn’t sent to the full membership. I didn’t know it until I received a request from someone that I should send out something.

Many of you might have known that Murray had been seeking another position for about 4 years. He was looking for a new challenge and we are pleased that he found it. Murray has contributed to Croquet New Zealand for the past eight years through his focus on keeping our finances in a good place and working with clubs, associations and individuals to promote croquet. He was the longest serving Executive Director in CNZ’s history. He commented that he appreciated the notes and calls he received when he announced his change in jobs. We wish him the best.

Tribute to Murray Goldfinch: 2014 – 2017



Photo: Linda Robertson

Murray Goldfinch served on the Executive of Croquet New Zealand for nearly two terms from 2014 - 2017. He was in his second term as Councillor when he died in May 2017. He was member of the Leith Croquet Club in Dunedin.

Murray was a friend, a fellow croquet player, and a caretaker of many aspects of croquet. Those who were fortunate to get to know this gentle giant knew he was a person with whom you could laugh, have a serious discussion, share a beer, and play some pretty good croquet. At age 52, Murray was taken too soon.

While on the Executive Murray soon became the person who could find the missing piece of the puzzle when we were discussing an item. He spoke when he felt he had something to contribute and his words were always well received. You could talk through ideas with him and he would find what might be a good way forward or express in the kindest way how we should take more time to decide before making a decision. He developed friendships with his easy way of approaching people.

After the first year on the Executive, Murray worked with me to deliver our first workshop at the CNZ AGM. Facilitating workshops was not an area he had a great deal of experience, but he was willing to give it a try. He was bright, willing to learn, and willing to do his best. The workshop proved highly successful. Last year he volunteered to deliver two workshops at the AGM: one on the Health and Safety new requirements and implications for clubs and associations, and one on succession planning. There was a great deal of information and interest generated from these sessions, thanks to Murray.

Murray was the convenor of the Organisation Development subcommittee on the Executive. He was reworking parts of the Constitution and was developing a scoring tool for the selection panels to use in their decision making process. He also chaired the complaints process. Murray served on the Tournament Committee and was an active member.

There are many memories that could be shared about Murray; these were from his service on the Executive. Thanks to Croquet Otago President Shirley Ungemuth and Murray’s family, we are able to learn a great deal more about him with the following information.

Murray’s Start as a Croquet Player

Murray started in croquet through his father, Ken, who was the groundskeeper at Leith Croquet Club. Murray thought the game was cool and started playing. He started croquet by making his own mallet with imported special wood. He loved the peaceful surroundings of the croquet lawns where he charged his batteries.

Murray took over as the groundskeeper from his father along with the responsibility of all that was involved with the maintenance of the council leased land and upkeep of mowers and buildings. He created equipment out of the old to do special tasks and happily loaned such interesting contraptions to other Clubs, while also sharing the expertise he had gained when seeking out the best possible information and solutions for the Club. He was at the heart of what happened at his club.

Murray won many awards while playing croquet at the club, regional and national levels. Murray's most recent achievements included runner-up for the National Copper Tray Invitation in March. He was the 2017 winner of the Otago Croquet Assn., Champ of Champions.

He was a valued member of his family, at Otago University as an architect, and a member of his croquet club.

Early Beginnings

Born in Dunedin to Ken and Joan Goldfinch he enjoyed a close family relationship, especially with his sister Linda, just 14 months older. From his home in Lothian Street he attended the Maori Hill Primary School, the Balmacewan Intermediate and the new Logan Park High School.

From a young age his interests were many and varied, including his church affiliation, competitive dancing, which took the siblings all over New Zealand, artwork of which Linda has a painting she treasures, to being the proud owner at 18 of a 1946Ford Coup. A very much admired paint job followed. His interest in classic cars was nurtured by Uncle George; it never faded.

A perfectionist Murray entered the work force as a draughtsman before going on to University in Auckland to qualify as an Architect. During this period he was devastated by the death of his beloved mother, Joan who died on her 61st birthday.

The encouragement and support from his family, gave Murray the courage, the strength, the developed expertise that enabled him to take on all that he did in his profession and as a great player and team member of not only croquet but Squash, Soccer, and not to forget the Four Wheel Drive Car Club.

As you can see, Murray loved croquet. He loved playing and was willing to help at the club level, help other clubs and helped nationally.

He will be missed but not forgotten.

Please Welcome Jake Inwood – Croquet New Zealand’s Executive Director

Jake Inwood joins Croquet New Zealand as Executive Director on 17 July 2017. He brings a wealth of experience in finance, sport, and managing projects. During the past four years as Finance Officer with Wellington Hockey Association, finances within the sport improved, particularly in leveraging commercial and grant funding partnerships to support the growth of sporting programmes.  Along with leveraging additional income, Jake also led several projects that have provided significant cost savings across numerous Hockey Association’s around New Zealand.

Another area in which Jake is knowledgeable is community sport and performance. While at the Wellington Hockey he helped developed programmes. These experiences provide a solid platform from which to achieve Croquet New Zealand’s strategic goals.

Jake’s experience in planning, financial management, development of policy, knowledge of community and performance sport and a player of croquet give him a strong basis for the Executive Directorship. Another strength that Jake brings to the Executive Directorship is seeing the importance of building relationships with the clubs and regions. Relationships are essential to continuing to build croquet throughout New Zealand.

Outside of work, Jake recently joined the Athletics Wellington Board.  This role provides him with invaluable experience and gives him a better perspective on how different sporting organisations operate.

Jake has been involved with croquet since playing as a summer sport while attending Broadgreen Intermediate in Nelson. Jake joined Richmond Croquet Club shortly after. He played until 2010 when he moved to Wellington for University studies where he completed a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and Management. Jake has recently started playing croquet last year after being away for the last 6 years.

Jake was drawn to the role of Executive Directorship through his love of the sport and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead for croquet in New Zealand.  "There has been a great shift since I first began playing. I was shocked when I was at the Golf Croquet National's in Nelson in January 2017 to see how the sport has progressed and the results of the youth development programme. There are many really exciting prospects for moving croquet forward."

Jake Inwood begins on 17 July at CNZ’s National Office in Wellington.

Aaron Westerby Joins the Executive

Please welcome Aaron Westerby to the Executive. He was co-opted onto the Executive for the remainder of the term. Aaron brings a wealth of experience as a croquet player and is a great addition. Please watch for the profile in the next communique.

Special General Meeting

Murray Goldfinch did the seminal work with making some changes to the Constitution. At the June meeting the Executive discussed the paper he wrote. We decided to put forth the changes prior to the AGM because the election cycle that was set up in the Constitution was out of sync. During the discussion one idea that surfaced was to change the clauses to address the issue.

The process is to 1) send the proposed changes to the Constitution and background information to all associations and life members; 2) accept remits within 28 days; 3) the Executive meets to review responses, develop an agenda for the SGM, and send it to all associations and life members between 21 – 28 days before the meeting is held; and, 4) hold the meeting. The proposed changes and background information were sent and the Executive will review the responses after 28 days.

It is important that all associations respond and let us know who their delegates will be. Our options for conducting the meeting are to: 1) hold a videoconference meeting. 2) hold a face-to-face meeting, 3) vote by email, or 4) circular resolution. Our preferences is to have a videoconference. The system will be user friendly and details will be sent with the agenda.

**PLEASE BE SURE TO SEND YOUR DELEGATE CONTACT INFORMATION AND ANY REMIT BY 24 JULY.**

Nominations for the Executive:

The following nominations are due into the National Office by 31 July:

President: Annie Henry has served one term and is eligible to serve a second one.

Vice- Presidents (2): Baubre Murray resigned October 2016 in order to get back in sync the alternate year elections. She had also served for over 8 years on the Executive. Phillip Drew was elected at the same time to fill the vacancy when Annie Henry was elected as President.

Councillors (4): Brian Boutel and Dallas Cooke have served the maximum the Constitution allows of two terms. If the proposed changes in the Constitution are approved and ratified at the 19 August meeting, then they will be able to stand for Councillor in addition to standing for the Vice-President. Don Reyland will not be standing. Murray Goldfinch passed away and his seat is open. Stephen Fordyce was co-opted last year and is eligible to stand. Aaron Westerby was co-opted and is eligible to stand.

Awards Nominations

The intention of the awards is to recognise people who have excelled and given to croquet over the year. It would be fantastic if every association nominated at least one person for one award. There are many deserving members. Please send them to the National Office by 31 July.

Club Participation Award:

At the AGM last year Phillip Drew held a session to review the Club Participation Award after one year. The Executive received the feedback and made changes for the award for **2017 – 2018 season**. The new one will be sent to you in August so clubs can keep track of their participation during the year. **If you haven’t completed the Club Participation Award for this year—please ask to have one sent to you.**

We are still working on a format for the “new” Croquet Matters. We are still accepting your comments.

Warm regards,

Annie

D. Annie Henry

President