



Happy Holidays and New Year!

Kia ora,

Happy New Year! The Golf Croquet Nationals was a fantastic start to the new year. Congratulations to **Edmund Fordyce and George Coulter** for winning the Open Doubles, and to **Felix Webby** for winning the Open Singles. The tournament was well attended with more entries this year than last and over half were under 24! Only one person in the quarter finals was over 30! More than 80 spectators watched the Singles final. It continues to grow each year.

This is the first year that the 3+ were part of the Golf Croquet Nationals Open event and were awarded the first President's Salver. At this tournament the player who had the greatest gain in index points while playing in the singles received the Salver. There were four who had significant gains in index points. **Kaleb Small won the President's Salver** with 147 points gained during the singles. **Christopher Spittall** was close with 145 point gain. Well done! Please be sure to read more about the tournament and the event winners in this edition of *Croquet Matters*.

The Executive Committees membership and aims are in this edition of *Croquet Matters*. All are progressing towards their yearly goals. Some committees are looking for additional members. If you have the time and expertise to help, please be sure to contact the Committee Convenor.

All the best to the players in the NZ AC Open and our 20 New Zealand players playing in the AC World's that start in Wellington on 3 February. It would be great if a New Zealand player wins the worlds this year! I look forward to watching them.

Warm regards,
Annie

D. Annie Henry

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- Focus of *Croquet Matters*
- GC Nationals Results
- NZ Open information
- Meet the Executive
- ACWC Player Profiles
- ACWC Qualifying tournament information
- Invitation Information

Focus of *Croquet Matters*

Croquet Matters was suspended part of 2017 for a variety of reasons. *Croquet Matters* was re-started a few months ago and has received positive feedback. During 2018 *Croquet Matters* will focus mostly on national events each month. The purpose of the publication is to be informative. If you have suggestions and/or would like to help with the publishing, please let the National Office know.

GC Nationals Event



The NZ Golf Croquet Championships were held 6-13 January, hosted by Croquet Hawke's Bay. Headquarters were at the Heretaunga Croquet Club Havelock North (9 lawns) and Marewa Croquet Club (6 lawns). Manager Geoff Young managed a very relaxed, friendly tournament with a high standard of

sportsmanship. There were 20 doubles and 42 in the singles ranging in handicaps from -4 to 12. Over the 8 days the weather was favourable so the competitors had no complaints except for one day when the temperature soared.

Members had spent many hours preparing both venues, which were in first class condition. The catering was of a high standard and a barbeque on the Wednesday evening

at Heretaunga, was enjoyed by approximately 60 players and supporters. Heretaunga member Sheila Hurst convened the committee to organise the event and a small amount of sponsorship had been sourced.

RESULTS: Singles KO: Felix Webby (Taranaki) bt George Coulter (BOP) 7/5, 7/2, 6/7, 3/7, 7/4. This was very exciting with a high standard of play, which had the large number of spectators guessing which way the result would finish up. 3 & 4th: Edmund Fordyce (Sth Canterbury) bt Josh Freeth (Auckland) 7/3, 4/7, 3/7. Y Singles KO: Helen Reeves (HB) bt Phyllis Young (Thames Valley) 7/6, 7/6: Z Singles KO: Mike Crashley (BOP) bt Peter Freer (Australia) 7/4, 7/3: W Singles KO: Eleanor Ross (Nelson) bt Alan Winwood (Nelson) 7/3, 4/7, 7/2: ZZ Event KO (Duncan Dixon (Christchurch) bt Jace Hobbs (Nelson) 7/2, 7/5: Plate Final: Geoff Vautier (HB) bt Leila Martin (Sth Taranak) 7/2, 7/4: Doubles: Edmund Fordyce (St Canterbury) & George Coulter (BOP) bt Tony Stephens (HB) & Jace Hobbs (Nelson) 7/6, 7/4: Doubles Y: John Christie (Thames Valley) & Nelson Morrow (Auckland) bt Brian & Nathan Bullen (Wellington) 7/2, 7/4: Doubles Z: Jeff Gatchell (Manawatu/Wanganui) & Jason Hodgett (Sth Canterbury) bt Josh Freeth (Auckland) & Angus Coulter (BOP) 7/1, 7/5: Doubles Plate: Zane and Felix Webby 8 wins 25 net hoops: Doug Nottage (Australia) & Alan Winwood (Nelson) 8 wins 23 net hoops and Andrew Dixon (BOP) & Ian Brown (HB) 8 wins 9 net hoops.

Kaleb Small (Sth Canterbury) won the President's Encouragement Salver. This is a new event which was awarded to the player in the 3+ category who gained the best record in this handicap range as determined by the Tournament Management Committee. Kaleb increased his index points by 147 and Christopher Spittal (Sth Canterbury) increased his by 145.

Colleen Stephens
Publicity Officer

NZ Open

The New Zealand Open is currently being hosted by Canterbury Croquet Association at United Croquet Club and Fendalton Park Croquet Club from 20th – 28th January. This year will see 18 teams compete for the NZ Open Doubles title and 38 individuals compete for the NZ Open Singles title. **Congratulations to Chris Shilling and Sam Murray** for winning the AC Open Doubles.

With the Association Croquet World Championships being held in Wellington in February, some of the top players in the world are using the NZ Open as part of their preparation for the world's including reigning World Champion, Stephen Mulliner.

If you are in Christchurch between the 20th and 28th, make sure you get along and check out some top play.

Meet the Executive

The Executive is the board who is responsible for CNZ's operations. The Executive is made up of a president, two (2) vice-presidents and four (4) councilors. There must be at least one councilor from a North Island Association and one councilor from a South Island Association at all times. Executive members can be nominated by associations, then elected at the AGM.

The Executive is empowered by the Council to oversee the daily operations of CNZ and to ensure that the Strategic Plan outcomes are achieved and reported to the membership. To help assist with these, two staff members are employed: an Executive Director and a Sports Development Officer. The Executive provides the governance to give the staff direction to achieve the desired outcomes.

As well as the staff, there are also sub-committees set up by the Executive. Each sub-committee is made up of at least 3 people and is convened by a member of the Executive. These committees allow CNZ to tap into the knowledge and expertise of other members.

D. Annie Henry (President)

Annie is in her second term as CNZ President. She served on the Executive as a Councillor and Vice-President before being elected as President. She is a member of the Nelson Hinemoa Croquet Club in Nelson. She plays both codes, association and golf croquet every day that she can. She has been playing for about 12 years. Her highlights are playing in the national events in NZ and at the Women's Worlds' GC Championship in Cairo. She is a Level 1 Coach; GC Referee; AC Umpire; and, received her CNZ Manager's Badge. She has been Club Committee member, Vice-Captain, Captain and Club Croquet in Schools Coordinator. She also was Croquet Nelson President for the maximum number of terms (3). Currently she is the Croquet Nelson Coordinator for the Croquet in Schools Programme, GC Handicapper and member of the Croquet Nelson Match Committee. She is the Convenor of the Publicity and Marketing Committee and the Tournament Committee.

Annie's professional background is in education. Her last position was professor of Educational Leadership in the USA. Prior to joining the university facility she was a teacher and principal. She and her husband, Mike Milstein, have co-authored books on resiliency. She has served on various boards during her 18 years in NZ, of which she was National President of the NZ Educational Administration and Leadership Society (NZEALS) and is a Fellow.

Aaron Westerby (Councilor)

Aaron started playing croquet in 1986 having been introduced to the game by his grandmother. He has played extensively at national and international level for over 20 years, including captaining NZ's winning 2014 MacRobertson Shield team. He has previously served on CNZ's Tournament and AC Selection committees. A software developer, he resides in Auckland with his young family.

Aaron convenes the new Playing Oversight Committee which oversees the tournament,

laws, player development and the selection sub committees. An important function of this new committee is to provide direction and co-ordination on playing matters that either span or fall between sub-committees. He also is the convenor of the AC Selectors. In addition to the above, currently his key working areas are:

- * Enhancements to CNZ's membership database.
- * Development of a new High-Performance Plan.
- * Implementation of a basic document management system.

Kareen McLaren (Councilor)

Kareen is a member of the Te Aroha Croquet Club and a recreational GC player. Her mother, Jenny McLaren has been a long time Croquet member, an active player and has supported Morrinsville and Te Aroha Clubs in the Secretary's role for many years. Kareen has also actively supported her son, Hemi McLaren-Mellars and other Youth Development Squad members at a number of local, regional, national and world tournaments, from the time Hemi first picked up his mallet at age eight.

Kareen currently lives in Rotorua and is employed as a Senior Project Manager with WSP OPUS Consultants. She works with a number of clients to support their property and infrastructure planning and project management needs. Prior to moving to WSP OPUS, Kareen worked at the Ministry of Education for 5 years gaining extensive policy, procedural and funding knowledge. She has also sat on a number of Governance Committees and Boards, and bring this experience, her broad network of contacts along with a Masters in Social Science (Organizational Development) to support the CNZ Executive for the next 2 years.

Kareen has been allocated the Organizational Development Committee portfolio and looks forward to building on the great work completed to date by Murray Goldfinch and the previous executive committee.

The Committees

CNZ Publicity and Marketing Committee

Members:

Jacqui Anderson
Greg Bryant
Jake Inwood, Executive Director
Annie Henry, Convenor

The CNZ Publicity and Marketing Committee is a new committee that started less than a year ago. The aim of the Committee is to promote croquet locally, regionally, and nationally through various media and means. The Committee holds their meetings using the CNZ videoconferencing system. Meetings are held bimonthly.

The key areas the Committee are progressing until June 2018 are to:

- Publicize 5 major events for 2017-2018:

- National Secondary Schools GC Championships
- National U21 GC Championships
- National GC Championships
- NZ AC Open Championships
- AC World's Championships
- Develop an informative brochure about CNZ, the Executive, the Executive Director and Sports Development Officer
- Revise the questionnaire that was sent to clubs 5 years ago
- Develop live streaming of croquet tournaments
- Update publicity officers list of all clubs and associations
- Provide a profile of AC World's Championship NZ players
- Revamp/improve the CNZ website
- Increase usage of social media
- Produce Croquet Matters

If anyone is interested in joining this Committee, please contact Annie at annienz2017@outlook.com or 022 39 79 303. We would prefer to have 1 – 2 more members.

CNZ Tournament Committee 2018

Members:

Greg Bryant, Sport Development Officer
 Chris Clarke
 Jenny Clarke
 Aiken Hakes
 Jake Inwood, Executive Director
 Nelson Morrow
 Annie Henry, Convenor

The areas of responsibility of the Tournament Committee are: 1) NZ Tournament Calendar; 2) Tournament Regulations; 3) Managers' Training; 4) Formats and organisation of CNZ tournaments; and all areas related to providing tournament play. The Committee uses the CNZ videoconferencing system to hold most meetings. There will be at least two meetings prior to June and possibly three. Meetings are arranged to review work of the Committee.

The key areas of focus until June 2018 are:

- Developing a 3 year CNZ calendar
- Reviewing CNZ Tournament Regulations
- Developing Terms of Reference for the Tournament Committee
- Revising the player questionnaire
- Providing feedback to players regarding player questionnaire results
- Planning manager training
- Revising GC AHS cards
- Working with tournament managers prior to a CNZ tournament
- Reviewing all CNZ tournaments yearly
- Reviewing the global AC handicapping system

The Convenor may be contacted at annienz2017@outlook.com or 0223979303

Because of limited space, the remaining Executive and Committee profiles will be included in the next edition of *Croquet Matters*.

New Zealand Player Profiles for the World's AC Tournament

Chris Shilling

Chris is 54 years old and works as a Radiation Therapist at Dunedin Hospital. He has been playing croquet since 1980, and plays at the Punga Croquet Club. This will be his third time playing in the World Champs.

Dennis Bulloch

Dennis has played croquet since 1969 and continues to show flashes of some knowledge of the game. Not really a dark horse for this event but can provide nuisance value. Best placing was a bronze medal in London in 2001. His home club in Nelson Hinemoa in the city of Nelson though most of his croquet is now played in tournaments in NZ and Europe.

Dennis is looking forward to the challenge in Wellington and the comradery of the players from around the globe.

Harps Tahurangi

Harps currently lives in Wainuiomata, Lower Hutt, NZ. He is working as a baker. He started playing croquet for the Wainuiomata Croquet Club after being asked if he would like to mow their lawns. Harps now plays out of the Wellington Municipal Croquet Club. Harps has played sports most of his life from the age of 5 which included rugby of course, soccer, softball, cricket, tennis and badminton but rugby was his main passion growing up.

Harps reached the last 16 of the 2012 AC World Championships, beating Stephen Mulliner in the last 32. He has won the NZ Heenan Plate three times and made his NZ team debut in the 2013 Trans Tasman test series.

Harps was fortunate enough to play in the Second & Third Test of the MacRobertson Shield in Palm Springs 2017 and although he was disappointed in his performance, he enjoyed the experience.

Jarrold Coutts

Jarrold started playing croquet in Nelson at the Richmond Croquet Club in 2003. Has been a member of the NZ Youth Squads and is now a coach. Jarrold has been a manager of NZ test teams from 2010-2017. He is a secondary school PE teacher in Mid Canterbury at Mount Hutt College. Outside of croquet, his passions include his classic car, 'the brown', travelling, Rugby League and spending time with his partner Paige, who is also a secondary teacher. This will be Jarrold's debut at a croquet world championship.

Joe Hogan

Born and educated in Gisborne. He is married, with 3 young adult children. He started playing croquet in 1973 at Barry Memorial Croquet Club. Played for NZ in 5 MacRobertson Shields, first time being 1979, and most recently in Palm Springs, California, in 2017. In 1989 he won the inaugural World Federation Singles Championship. This is Joe's second year back into regular playing in croquet competitions since a long pause in 1994 to spend time with a growing family. Playing croquet now is time well spent.

Joshua Freeth

Josh Freeth lives in Auckland where he is in his final year of university studying Fine Arts.

He started playing association in 2015 and enjoys how much there is to learn about the game and the tough competition he expects to meet at the 2018 world champs. Josh won the GC World's U21 in 2014 and was a bronze medallist in the GC World's &U21 in 2017.

Toby Garrison

Toby has been playing croquet for about 25 years and in that time, has represented New Zealand at three Trans-Tasman events and four MacRobertson shields (as well as several world championships). Outside of croquet Toby lives in Wellington with his wife Karen and together they have a six-year-old son, Max and four-year-old daughter, Ruby.

Steve Jones



After picking up a mallet using the "Pencil grip" at the age of 7, Steve later joined Cheltenham Croquet Club in England before emigrating to New Zealand in 1982. Here he won a clutch of NZ titles, including the NZ Open in 1996, and represented the country many times. He also served on the CNZ Executive for a number of years. In 1999 Steve moved across the Tasman, and in 2006, helped Queensland to win the Interstate Cup. The following year he became Australian Team Coach and Croquet Australia's Senior Vice-President. He returned to New Zealand in 2010 and is now re-discovering his best form. A former Sonoma World Champion, this will be Steve's 10th WCF World Championships, his first having been in 1991. Steve has also been involved in 4 Trans Tasman Tests, and 5 MacRobertson Shield Series. Interests outside croquet are plentiful and include holidaying in exotic locations, music, fishing, gardening, and his large wine collection!

Mike Crashley



Mike Crashley was born in Lincolnshire, England and migrated to New Zealand in 1973. Mike was encouraged to take up croquet after he retired in 2004 firstly by Joe Hogan and secondly by his wife Sandra who wanted him out from under her feet! As a result croquet is still Sandra's favourite sport even though she is a non-player! Mike lives in the Eastern Bay of Plenty and belongs to the Whakatane croquet club where he is fortunate in having several strong AC opponents. He recently started playing AC again after a 2 year lay-off. In October he won the plate event at the North Island championships in Mount Maunganui, and also won the open doubles event with partner Bruce Baker.

Felix Webby



Felix started playing croquet about three years ago. He and his family and played with a backyard set and led him wanting to find out more about the game. After a local CNZ workshop he began to play in a few golf croquet tournaments and a few months later started to learn association croquet also.

His top achievements were in golf croquet where he won the Under 21 World Championship and gained a bronze medal at the GC World's Open event.

This year he will study first year health science at Otago University. Other interests include mountain biking and orienteering.

Association Croquet World Championship Qualifying Tournament

Rose Garden Croquet Club will be playing host to the Association Croquet World Championship qualifying tournament from Tuesday 30th January to Thursday 1st February. From which, the top four placing will earn their spot to compete at the World Championships in Wellington.

With 20 players entering from around the world, the five spaces available will be hotly contested.

Croquet New Zealand would like to thank Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui, Michael Hardman (manager) and Vince Neall (Tournament Referee) for helping make this event happen.

2018 Over 50 Golf Croquet World Championship

The Egyptian Croquet Federation will be hosting this years O50 GCWC from Saturday 6th October to Saturday 13th October in Cairo, Egypt.

Information on this event can be found [here](#).

CNZ will need to respond to WCF by 31 March should we wish to take up our membership places. If you would like to be considered for this event, please email croquet@croquet.org.nz.

February 2018 Issue

The next issue will include:

- Executive and Staff Profiles
- Committee descriptions
- NZ Open Results
- World's AC Championship Results
- GC Invitations Results