



CROQUET MATTERS

OCTOBER 2018

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From the President



Kia ora,

The season has started off with great excitement at club, regional and national level tournaments. There have recently been two high quality GC tournaments, featuring some of the future lifeblood of Croquet New Zealand, as well as, in the case of the Women’s GC tournament, a reminder that there is still a great deal of life in our more experienced competitors. My personal congratulations go out to all our very talented winners. The fourth Women’s GC tournament held in the Bay of Plenty was sponsored this year by a new anonymous donor to the value of \$1,000 prize money, and our thanks go out for this generous gesture. The relatively new, and very impressive, facility at the Matamata Croquet Club in Waikato-King Country played host to the fourth National U21 GC Championships. It is wonderful to see the strength of the entries, as well as the skill levels of those competitors.

It was my honour at the CNZ Awards dinner to induct Paddy Chapman into the CNZ Hall of Fame. As Paddy is in the UK, he sent a video acceptance speech which was shown to the attendees at the dinner.

The AGM provided a robust discussion of information that impacts how CNZ grows, and I would like to thank all the delegates for their input. It will shape what we do.

I appreciate the work all CNZ Committees have done this year; however, I would particularly like to thank Kathie Grant and Kareen McLaren for leading the initial discussion around changing the Constitution. Further discussions will take place over the next year as both launch the Constitution Project. I would also like to thank Aaron Westerby for all the work he continues to do on the CNZ database and website development, and his tutorial to delegates. I appreciate Tom Devlin's inspirational update of the finances. Each year CNZ looks for additional streams of revenue and all suggestions are very welcome.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to welcome Kathie Grant and Phyllis Young (Vice-Presidents) and George Coulter (Councillor) who were all formally elected onto the Executive. The Executive has a great deal of strength and expertise, and I look forward to continuing to work with it for the betterment of croquet in New Zealand.

After the CNZ AGM I went to the Wellington Municipal Club to watch the Wellington Croquet Association Men's and Women's Championships. I was fortunate to be there when the weather had settled down considerably. It was an excellent competition and I had the honour of awarding the winners:- **Paul Skinley** and **Nina Mayard-Husson**, and the runners-up:- **Aiken Hakes** and **Alison Robinson**, their respective trophies. It was a wonderful way to wrap up a fantastic weekend.

I always welcome suggestions, constructive feedback, and invitations to visit, so please do not hesitate to contact me.

Nga mihi,

Annie

Annie Henry

Upcoming CNZ Tournaments

8th – 11th November 2018 (Entries Closed)

[CNZ North Island GC Championships at Orewa](#)

8th – 11th November 2018 (Entries Closed)

[CNZ South Island GC Championships at Nelson](#)

28th November – 2nd December 2018

[CNZ 95th North Island AC Championships at Palmerston North](#)

12th – 16th December 2018

[CNZ 84th South Island AC Championships at Christchurch.](#)

5th January – 13th January 2019

[NZ Open Championships at Mount Maunganui](#)

19th January – 25th January 2019

[CNZ National Golf Croquet Tournament in Nelson](#)

30th January-31st January 2019

[Women's GC World Championship Qualifying Event at Rangatira - Click here to Register](#)

[Click here for Tournament Entry Form](#)

CNZ Tournament Roundup

Fourth CNZ U21 GC Championships

A View from the Boundary

18 doubles pairs, 31 singles (some at school, others in work, one at University), an age range of 8 years between the youngest and the oldest player, a welcoming croquet club and officials, six lawns in good condition, sunny weather - all the necessary ingredients for a fabulous fourth New Zealand U21 golf croquet tournament.



2018 Winners L-R: Quinn Berry, Chris Spittal, Logan McCorkindale, Josie Tallents, Waikato-King Country President Pam Fisher, CNZ Vice President Phyllis Young, Kaleb Small, Edmund Fordyce and Manager Nigel Grondin

Hosted by Matamata Croquet Club, the competitors enjoyed a day of coaching followed by four full days of play, commencing with two days of doubles and then two of singles. The popularity of this tournament was evident with strong club contingents from Cashmere, Waireka, Nelson Hinemoa, Rose Gardens, and home club Matamata. The joy of being a spectator was in seeing the quality of the play, how much repeat competitors have improved over the last 12 months, and enjoying new names battling for knock-out places.

As the days progressed, the tight competitive play meant that it was not always easy to predict who would take the top spots to qualify for the knockouts, and this was what made it all the more entertaining.

There were unexpected defeats and there were impressive wins for players who succeeded against those ranked higher. Jump shots played a significant role with the final one made from the base line to take the doubles crown being outstanding, as was the shot to take the singles crown. Skillful long range roquets, and strategic positioning shots, were great to observe.



Edmund Fordyce U21 GC Singles Champion

There was a lovely atmosphere between players, getting to know each other better, having fun, learning from disappointments, and playing better croquet as the days progressed.

The success of the tournament reflected the work being done locally, regionally and at a national level. Thanks go to all involved with the spectacle, whether they were behind the scenes, arriving at 7.15 am to ensure the lawns were ready, successfully managing the event, baking the hearty food, playing, watching, or supporting.



Chris Spittal and Kaleb Small U21 GC Doubles Champions

The overall result was that Edmund Fordyce successfully defended his singles title, defeating Waireka club mate Kaleb Small 7-4, 6-7, 7-5.

Jason Hodgett secured 3rd place, overcoming Ellie Ross who took 4th. Nathen Bullen also had a very impressive weekend, taking 5th place after a hard match against Chris Spittal (7-6, 6-7, 7-3).

In the Plate event of 23 players, local Matamata player Quinn Berry beat Te Kiri King 7-5 to progress to his first KO final and Josie Tallents defeated Stephen Turner by the same margin in their semi. Quinn was the final victor of the Plate, again winning 7-5.

In the Doubles event semi-finals, Logan McCorkindale and Josie Tallents defeated Wellingtonians Nathan Bullen and newcomer Robbie Spooner, whilst Chris Spittal and Kaleb Small overcame Nelson players Mikey Lauer and Ellie Ross to set up a repeat of last month's NZ Secondary Schools final. On this occasion however, Chris and Kaleb secured the U21 Doubles title with a close two game win, 7-5, 7-6. For the full results use the links below.

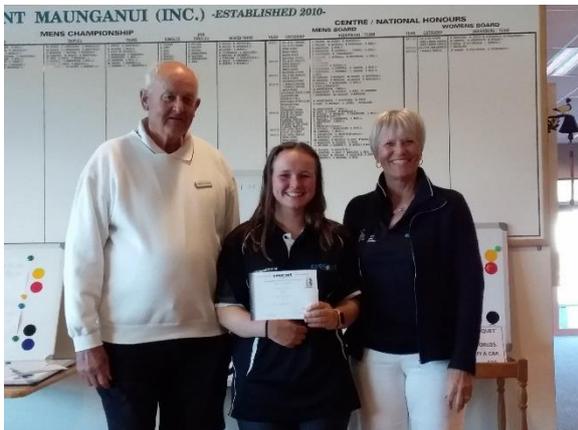
[Doubles Results](#) [Singles Results](#)

CNZ Women's GC Championship



Fine sunny weather, albeit with a chilly breeze, greeted the 28 competitors gathering at the superb croquet facility in Mount Maunganui for the Women's GC Tournament hosted by the Bay of Plenty Croquet Association. Included in the quality field were 11 of the 13 players who will represent New Zealand in the Women's GC World Championships being hosted in Hawke's Bay in February 2019.

Saturday play was blocks, with the top 2 from each group going into the Sunday Gold knock-out final. 3rd and 4th places went into the Silver knock-out, with the remainder of the in the Plate.

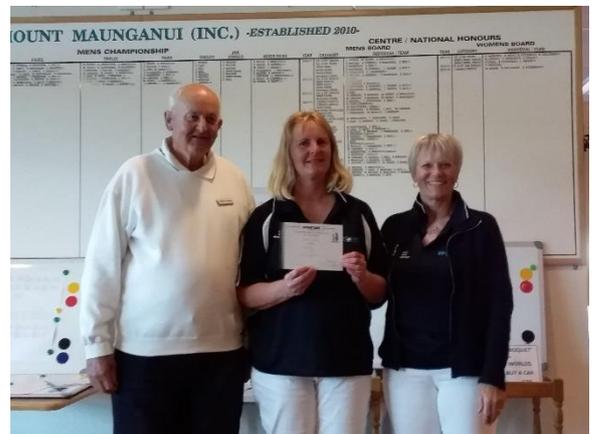


Geoff Young, Ellie Ross and Annie Henry.

Sunday dawned fine again and saw some intense games played. Both the Gold and Silver knock-outs were played as best of 3 matches, and the Plate as five rounds of one block. The result of the Plate competition was a win for Sue Roberts (BOP), with runner up Marion Taylor (AK). The Silver knock-out culminated in a very hard-fought final between Phyllis Young (Thames Valley) and Lynette Grant (HB). The eventual winner was Lynette by 7-5; 1-7; 7-5.

The Gold knock-out again witnessed some challenging games, with the four block winners from Saturday all making it through to the semi-finals. The match between Dallas Cooke and Ashley Cooke went to three games before Dallas emerged victorious 1-7; 7-6; 7-3, whilst the other semi-final saw Ellie Ross progressing to her second successive final defeating Cindy Clarke in a close match 7-6; 7-5.

The scene was set for the final between Dallas and Ellie, which the latter won 7-2; 7-6, thereby successfully defending her 2017 crown without losing a game.



Geoff Young, Dallas Cooke and Annie Henry

Thanks go to Geoff Young, Manager of the event, and all the club members who helped ensure a highly successful tournament.

[Full Results Available Here](#)

CNZ 2018 AGM Summary



All association delegates present and ready for AGM and workshop action

The 2018 Croquet New Zealand AGM was held on the 13th and 14th October at the Brentwood Hotel, Wellington. This is a brief summary of the proceedings. A copy of the 2017/18 Annual Report will shortly be available online - [click here for Annual Reports](#).

This year all the associations had delegates in attendance, with the only apologies being from those life members unable to attend.

Introductions were made, and each delegate gave a short report for their respective regions. A remembrance was held for those members we lost during the year.

One of the matters arising from the 2017 AGM minutes was for the CNZ database to be extracted and sent to associations for approval. Aaron Westerby explained that the database is currently being updated, and whilst impractical to send the extraction to the associations at present, once updated this will be resolved.



New delegates welcomed to the CNZ AGM

Annie Henry made a presentation on how the strategic plan was being achieved by the committees and staff.

The formal election was held for the two vacancies as Vice-President and also the vacancy for a Councillor, with Kathie Grant and Phyllis Young being duly elected as Vice-Presidents, and George Coulter as Councillor.

There were five items of general business raised:-

1. The Bay of Plenty requested clarification regarding entry to the Women's GC World Championships Qualifier. The Executive Director will action and respond to this.
2. Counties-Manukau enquired about players not bringing AHS cards. A full response to this is to be found [here](#)
3. Thames Valley asked about the AC Silver Badge Competition handicap range "0 to 3" that is listed in Appendix 5 of the Yearbook. All CNZ tournaments that are listed as "0 to 3" events are now "0 to 3.5" events. This change is posted on the CNZ website as a news item called Tournament Updates.
4. Annie Henry proposed that starting from next year, money should be set aside to assist with the President's travel expenses. She felt that it is important for the President to visit the regions, but currently there is no budget. There was support for a presidential travel fund, and a motion was approved for the Executive to address this issue.
5. West Coast offered their condensed version of the new GC Rules to all clubs.

AGM Weekend Workshops

After the AGM meeting officially closed, a series of workshops were then held covering a few key issues. The first workshop, formed of two parts, was the initial meeting of the Constitution Project and was led by Kathie Grant and Karen McLaren. Part one introduced the changes the new Incorporated Societies legislation will require. Part two enabled a better understanding of what associations require from CNZ.

Subject for the second workshop was billeting, led by Annie Henry. There have been several previous attempts to organise information about billets. The outcome was that guidelines with price ranges would be very helpful for associations and clubs. The Executive Director will compile and circulate the ideas generated.

The third workshop discussed the CNZ database which has been extensively updated by Aaron Westerby. For several months, Aaron has been working to create a functional database that is practical and easy to use. The previous database software is no longer supported and therefore had to be replaced. Aaron has taken on this project as his donation to croquet, which is hugely appreciated.

Aaron also introduced the fourth workshop which was a brief update of the website, to which he has been making changes. With Aaron's primary focus being on the database, the Executive Director will implement the plan devised by Aaron.

The final workshop, presented by Tom Devlin, concentrated on the development of revenue streams. The Finance, Audit and Risk committee will prioritise the suggestions and pursue them.

Saturday CNZ Awards Dinner

Aaron Westerby served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening, and the awards were presented by CNZ President Annie Henry.

Presidents Trophy for the highest percentage of "New to Croquet" membership
Otorohanga Croquet Club (Waikato-King Country)

Huon Pine Bowl for the largest number of "New to Croquet" members
Putaruru Croquet Club (Waikato-King Country)

Club Participation Award
Wellington Municipal Croquet Club (Wellington)

Baker Trophy for Most Improved AC Player
Stefan Horrer (Wairarapa)

Most Improved GC Player
Eleanor Ross (Nelson)

Volunteer of the Year
Brian Boutel (Wellington)

Contribution to Croquet (new award)
Lynley Browne (Otago)

Player of the Year
Paddy Chapman

Hall of Fame Induction
Paddy Chapman



Automatic Handicap System Card Information for Players

All players are expected to use their AHS cards when playing in a tournament whether it be local, regional, national or international.

In the past it has been unclear whether a player needed to use the AHS card for some tournaments. One of the problems was that the handicaps didn't have the extensions they currently do. With the extensions for both GC and AC, the player will continue to record their handicap. The CNZ Tournament Committee has clarified this question by stating that the AHS cards must be used for all tournaments.

If a player forgets their AHS card, then the manager has been asked to supply one to the player for use in the tournament. The player has two weeks to scan the AHS card and send it to the manager for approval. The appropriate local handicapper may work with the manager to ensure the player is using the correct handicap.

If a player continues to forget or not use their AHS card for a tournament, then additional consequences may result.

This procedure will be used for championship games only in both AC and GC. The Tournament Committee is reviewing players without AHS cards for handicap events. Once a decision is made, it will be posted on the CNZ website.

Meet Phyllis Young

“When one door shuts another one opens, and for me this was croquet as, after 20 years of playing golf, I decided that it was time to explore another sporting code. After just one lesson, I knew that this was the sport for me.

With now well over 30 years as a croquet member, I can reflect on many highlights as a player:- Trans-Tasman teams, both AC and GC, competing successfully at many national and invitation events, GC women’s world events, and winning the Matamata-Piako Sports person of the Year award. I have also previously served on the Executive of CNZ (2006-2010) and am a Level 2 Coach, a role I really enjoy.

Once dairy farmers in the Kereone district, Morrinsville, two years ago my husband, Geoff, and I decided to return to this area from Matamata. Four children and now 12 grandchildren keep the two of us up to the mark and busy.

I enjoy playing croquet with Geoff, daughter Dallas Cooke and now my grand-daughter, Ashley Cooke. We are all very competitive and do hate losing to one another.

I am very grateful for the support and friendships that I have made within the croquet fraternity, especially the Morrinsville Croquet club. To become a Vice President on the CNZ Executive is a real honour and position of responsibility. I will endeavour to work to the best of my ability on behalf of all players affiliated to CNZ”.

Please note that the correct phone number for Phyllis (and Geoff) is 07 889 1322, and not as listed on page 22 of the full CNZ yearbook.

Random Notes!

CNZ Selection Policy Update

The CNZ Executive has updated the Selection Policy. Please see the website [here](#) for the revised version.

WCF Entry Fee Policy

The CNZ Executive approved a proposal for players who enter any World Croquet Federation (WCF) event to pay the first \$125, with the one exception being for youth players. Please click here for the full policy document.

[CNZ WCF Entry Fee Policy](#)

AC and GC Invitations

This year the GC and AC Selection Panels are requesting players to express interest and availability for GC and AC invitations. Clubs may also nominate players for these invitations. The online form to register interest is [here](#) .

If your situation changes prior to when the selections are made, please let the Executive Director, Jake Inwood, know as soon as possible at croquet@croquet.org.nz

Three Year Calendar

The Tournament Committee is undertaking the process of updating the three-year tournament calendar for seasons 2021 – 2022. If you are interested in hosting a tournament, please contact nelson_morrow@btinternet.com.

As a guide, when developing the calendar, consideration is given to regions. North, Central, and South Island venues are alternated, unless it is a specific North or South Island event. The plan is to publish the updated three-year calendar by the end of this year.

CNZ GC Nationals

A clarification from the September issue. The CNZ GC Nationals will be held over 8 days, Sunday to Sunday, commencing in the 2019/20 season. The event being held in Nelson from 19th - 25th January 2019 is still a 7-day event.

Success for teenagers in Rose Gardens Spring GC Tournament.

A number of teenagers participated in the recent Spring Golf Croquet Tournament at Rose Gardens Croquet Club in the Esplanade, and went on to feature among the trophy winners.

The Open Event was still the province of more experienced players, with New Zealand international, Dennis Bulloch, of the host club, unbeaten in taking the Gordon Smith Salver. Young local, André Murray was runner-up, on a count-back from Brian Bullen and his teenage son, Nathan, both of Wellington.

The President's Trophy for players on a handicap of 4+ was won by Wellington junior, Robbie Spooner with another teenager, Paul Kaiser of Rose Gardens runner-up. Yet another junior, Bradley Forsyth of Rose Gardens was successful in winning the Rose Gardens Cup for players on a handicap of 8+. Neil Stantiall (RG) upheld the honour of the senior contestants in being runner-up in this event.

The success of this tournament was made possible by a good entry from the home club, supported by players from Hawkes Bay and Wellington.

Youth Croquet at Whangamata

Whangamata Croquet Club has five new student members for the 2018/2019 season, reports Joy O'Sullivan. It is an exciting period for the club, with their membership (and, also, one of their grandmother's) the result of Whangamata Area School's Year 9, 10 and 11 students being invited earlier this year to experience golf croquet as part of the school's physical education programme.

Since that time, there have been regular late afternoon sessions for keen players which have been great fun. The established members have all enjoyed the interaction with young players.

As golf croquet is now part of the PE curriculum in Terms 1 and 4, the club has benefited from a Waikato Sports Foundation "Kick Start Grant".

This enabled the club to purchase a range of mallets, balls and a set of Quadway Hoops. Michelle Tupper from the school and CNZ's Sport Development Officer Greg Bryant are working on a rubric assessment at different class levels.

In addition, as part of the PE curriculum, the students will gain NCEA credits, so playing croquet is also helping them on the academic front. Add in family members deciding to join as well, makes this a win win all round, and hopefully one that can be replicated at clubs around the country.



Youth croquet stars at Whangamata with PE teacher Michelle Tupper and croquet coach Joy O'Sullivan

Message from the Editor

I hope that you are enjoying reading this month's issue and that your playing season has started well. This edition has been published slightly later than normal to accommodate what has proved to be a busy month for croquet.

It has been suggested that a new Rules Q&A feature be included in future editions, so you are very welcome to submit any burning questions directly to jackietye1@gmail.com. I will draw on the expertise of Brian Boutel, Chairman of the WCF Rules Committee, who has kindly agreed to contribute his knowledge.

Regards,

Jackie

Artificial Lawns – By Chris Clarke

This article was originally posted on the global croquet mailing list (The Nottingham Board).

[Click here to look at Croquet World Online](#)

There have been a few posts over the past few years about artificial lawns, so I thought that I would write to say that Jenny and myself played on the best artificial lawn I have ever seen recently.



Jenny Clarke with Geoffrey Naylor, the resident of this Christchurch retirement community responsible for getting a first-class playing surface installed on the site.

The lawn is situated at Russley Village which is an up-market retirement village in Christchurch. The lawn is 5/7 size and is also used for bowls and crazy golf. We estimate that it ran at about 10 seconds, but was likely to increase in pace as the sand settled into the fibres. It is also possible to increase lawn speed by rolling.

The hoops were Atkins placed in concrete blocks with plastic sleeves. They were set at 3¾" and presented an adequate challenge to run for Jenny and myself, without being too difficult. I would recommend hoops at between 3⁷/₈" and 4" for normal club play.

The turf has an underlay beneath it especially for croquet and this gives a pleasant feel both for walking on and for croquet strokes. We were both able to play jump shots without difficulty.

The setting was absolutely delightful. The lawn was "sunken" - a bit like Sonoma and we were fortunate that it is cherry blossom time, so the surroundings were idyllic.



The multi-purpose lawn is ideally located, in full view of the restaurant and bar.

The lawn has been provided thanks to the work of Geoffrey Naylor who has been a resident at Russley Village for 3 years. The company responsible is called "Tiger Turf" and they have used their bowls turf called "Supergreen" but have also included a 4mm underlay specifically for croquet.



The lawn's location affords a bit of shade and glorious cherry blossoms in the spring. Let's hope Jenny gives Geoffrey enough bisques to compete in their game.

From a maintenance perspective, it requires "brushing" at least quarterly and the application of an anti-bacterial spray and/or algaecide. The lawn has a 7-year guarantee and has an expected lifetime of 25 years. Only time will tell whether or not there is excessive wear in the hoops that would mean that new patches of lawn would be required to avoid rabbit runs.

The lawn was extremely flat and even paced. It occupies a central location at the Village, visible from the restaurant and bar and will hopefully become the standard by which artificial croquet lawns are judged.