



# CROQUET MATTERS

# JANUARY 2019

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## Notes from the Editor

December and January are always busy months for croquet, so this edition is a bumper one. I hope that 2019 has started well for you and trust you all have a great second half of the croquet season.

Just a reminder to send in any questions on the laws and rules of croquet that you may have, and Brian Boutel will answer them here.

Finally, to keep an eye on the scores in the WCF Women's World GC Championship click on:- [Women's World GC Championship Scores](#)

Regards,

Jackie

## From the President



Kia ora,

Happy New Year! May the spirit of the recent holidays carry throughout the year. Happy 2019! We are in the heart of the tournament season with many events at all levels: club, interclub, national and

international. It is great to have these opportunities for all of us, playing & enjoying the game.

I would like to congratulate all the New Zealand women players who have been selected to play in the **Women's Golf Croquet World's** that is being held in Hawke's Bay from 2 – 9 February 2019: **Pat Anderton, Sally Cole, Ashley Cooke, Dallas Cooke, Annie Henry, Moya Lewis, Helen Reeves, Sue Roberts, Ellie Ross, Sonya Sedgwick, Ann Sharp, Sue Truman and Phyllis Young**, and wish them the very best. They will be competing against the top players from Australia, Egypt, England, Ireland, Scotland, Spain, and USA. I would also like to send best wishes to the women who are competing this week in the **Qualifying Event** that is being held at Rangatira Club. I wish all of you the very best tournament.

There seems to be a trend being set. There is a stronger field of players, a larger field of players who are entering CNZ events for the first time, and more of our youth competing at the national level. It is great that more players are challenging themselves by playing in these events. By competing in interclub events or at national and international tournaments, we are testing our skills and strategies. Being a player or observer at many of the CNZ tournaments I'm always impressed with how each player continues to grow. One of my honours is to present the awards and congratulate the players for their achievements. There are a quite a few recognitions from the last time *Croquet Matters* was published.

I would like to congratulate **Felix Webby and Josh Freeth** who won the South Island AC Open Championship Doubles, and to **Chris Clarke and Edmund Fordyce** as the runners up. Congratulations to **Greg Bryant** for winning the South Island AC Open Singles Championship for the sixth time, and to **Jenny Clarke** as the runner up. **Congratulations to Felix Webby** for winning the Open Plate and to **Jace Hobbs** as runner up. **Ian Campbell** won the 0 – 3.5 and **Kathie Grant** was runner up. Ian and Kathie had only one loss each and Ian won on count back points. **Leo van Oosten** won the 4+ event for the fourth time and **Kevin McGlinchy** was runner up. A special thank you to **Croquet Canterbury, United and Holmes Park Croquet Clubs** for hosting the event. The excellent management of both venues was done by **Chris and Jenny Clarke**.

The North Island AC Open Championship joint winners were **Andre Murray and Steve Jones**. The Open Doubles and 0 – 3.5 were not played because of lack of entries. In the 4+ event, **Robert McLay** won the event without dropping a game. **Baubre Murray** was runner up. A big thank you to **Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui and Rose Gardens Croquet Club** for hosting the event. Thanks also to **Michael Hardman** for running an excellent tournament.

Congratulations to **Greg Bryant** for winning the NZ Open AC Singles for the fifth time, and to **Josh Freeth** as the runner up. Well done to **Dennis Bulloch** for winning the Bronze Medal and to **John Christie** for winning the Heenan Plate. Congratulations to **Chris and Jenny Clarke** for winning the NZ Open AC Doubles, and to **Paul Skinley and Harps Tahurangi** as runners up. Congratulations to **Nelson Morrow and John Christie** for winning the NZ Open Doubles “Z” Event. Well done to **Josh Freeth and Felix Webby** for winning the NZ Open Double “Y” Event. Thanks to **Geoff Young** for running a fantastic tournament and to **Mt. Maunganui Croquet Club** for hosting the event.

Congratulations to the GC Nationals Open Singles winner **Edmund Fordyce**, and to **Felix Webby** as runner up. Congratulations to **Dennis Bulloch** for winning the GC Nationals Open Singles “Z” event and to **Jason Hodgett** for winning the Open “Y” event. Well done to **Eleanor (Ellie) Ross** for winning the “Bowl”. Congratulations to **Mike Crashley** for winning the Open Singles Plate. **Paul Kaiser** won the 3+ President’s Encouragement Salver. Paul had 142 index points gained during the singles.

**Finlay Webb** received recognition for gaining 94 index points. Congratulations to Open Doubles winners **Hamish McIntosh and Josh Freeth**. Well done to **Felix Webby and Phillip Drew** as runners up. Congratulations to **George Coulter and Edmund Fordyce** for winning the Open Doubles Plate.

Please congratulate your club members for competing at the national level, whether it be the first or many times, and to those who were recognised for their achievements.

**Congratulations to the Masterton Croquet Club** for adding another lawn. It is an enormous effort to expand and it is great that they have the support of their local community. Well done.

The Executive continues to work on the new organisational structure that will make responsibilities and reporting clearer. Currently all the operational subcommittees that have been in operation are continuing to operate. The volunteers who are on these committees continue to work for all croquet players. We appreciate the work they do.

Thanks to all the associations and clubs and your members for being there each day to promote croquet. For me, 2019 starts with positive thoughts on how croquet grows.

Warm regards,  
*Annie*



*“Behold the supreme spell-binding hypnotic magnificence of two holes in the ground on a croquet court”*

## Upcoming CNZ Tournaments

[20-24 February 2019 – Men's & Women's Championships](#)

[8-10 March 2019 – Women's AC Invitation](#)

[15-17 March 2019 – Arthur Ross National Final](#)

[20-24 March 2019 – Edwina Thompson AC Invitation](#) and [Roger Murfitt AC Invitation](#)

[21-24 March 2019 – CA Silver Tray AC Invitation](#)

[22-24 March 2019 – Mrs RA Clarke Copper Tray AC Invitation](#) and [Gold Cup AC Invitation](#)

[30-31 March 2019 – Don Reyland Stars Nat. Final](#)

[CNZ Tournament Registration Page](#)

*Click on any of the links above for more information.*

## CNZ Tournament Roundup

[CNZ North Island AC Championships](#)

This tournament was held from 30 November to 2 December, just 3 days because there weren't enough entries to run the Doubles on the scheduled first two days, writes Michael Hardman.

For the first time - at least for several years - the Open Singles and Plate started with Block Play, rather than the knockout for the main event running right from the start. This format was a result of feedback from players from recent North Island AC Championships and the new approach was popular with the players, particularly those who didn't qualify for the knockout and went into the Plate after the first day.

Initially we had 14 entries for the Open Singles and only 2 for the 0-3.5 event, with several players in that handicap range preferring to play in the Open. Through some moderately aggressive recruiting at the Central Veterans tournament I identified two extra candidates, which would have justified a two-day tournament for the four players. However, the two original entrants then decided that they would

rather play the full three days and start in the Open event. So, unfortunately, there was no 0-3.5 event.

With 16 players now in the Open Singles the chosen format was 3 rounds of Block Play in blocks of 4 on the first day, then knockout for the top 2 in each block and a block-play based Plate for the others. This meant three rounds of best-of-three matches in the knockout, which was pushing it a bit in terms of time constraints.

To some extent we were unlucky in the first test of the new format, getting the one combination that didn't work in the two days available for the Knockout phase. If enough of these matches had finished in two games, or three quick ones, we would have been able to finish by late Sunday afternoon. As it turned out, one finalist had to play three games in the quarter-final, semi-final and then the final – meaning that the last game of the final could have gone into darkness. With both players living moderately close to Palmerston North the decision was made to play this game later.

Ultimately, this proved not to be a practical idea, therefore Hawkes Bay players Steve Jones and André Murray share the 2018 North Island AC Open title with a time affected one all result in the event final.



*André Murray and Steve Jones, Joint Winners*

The Plate event was won by Liz McLay, with Marion McInnes as runner-up, and to complete the family double Robert McLay won the 4+ Singles at Marton (from Baubre Murray as runner-up).

The lawns at Rose Gardens were in much better condition than some players had feared after playing there during last summer's drought in the Triton tournament or the AC Worlds Qualifier. In fact they were perhaps too green, after quite a bit of rain in the few days before the tournament.



*Michael Hardman with Liz McLay, winner of the Plate*

only unbeaten player, but as the next two days unfolded, favourite Ian Campbell started to get back on top, finishing with 7/8. Kathie Grant pulled off a wonderful turn after time against John Yarrall in the final round to also reach 7/8, but Ian had scored a whopping 54 more net hoops, so took the title.



*4+ singles competitors at Holmes Park following a hard-fought tournament*

## CNZ South Island AC Championships

This year's South Island Champs were held in Canterbury at United and Holmes Park. The first two days were for Open Doubles, played as a six round swiss with nine pairs. The winners were Josh Freeth and Felix Webby who were unbeaten. They beat runners-up Edmund Fordyce and Chris Clarke 26-20 after Felix hit a 26 yard "last shot" and then later a 35-yard "last shot".

The 4+ Singles was hosted by Holmes Park who provided excellent playing conditions. After the block play, Leo van Oosten and Kevin McGlinchy played a final for the Championship. Leo had won 6/7 in the block and Kevin 5/7 including beating Leo. Kevin took an early 10-3 lead which he held until Leo finished a 6 hoop break to make it 21-18 four minutes before the 210-minute time limit expired. Leo held onto this lead to win the event. Leo also qualified for his Silver Award earlier in the event when he completed a 12-hoop break against Baubre Murray.

Nine players competed in a block for the 0-3.5 Championship. After Day 1, John Hearnshaw was the

Twelve players competed in two blocks for the Open. The use of blocks has been requested by the majority of players in recent surveys, but this led to Felix Webby being eliminated from Block A with only one loss since both Greg Bryant and Josh Freeth had better net points. In Block B, Jenny Clarke was unbeaten and Chris Shilling was runner-up. Greg beat Chris 2-1 in their semi-final and Jenny remained unbeaten with a 2-0 win against Josh. The final was won in straight games 26-1, 26-13 by Greg Bryant who won the event for the fifth year in a row.

It was great to have 29 players at an AC event – with handicaps ranging from minus 3 to 10, so why not add it to your events for next season?

Chris Clarke, Manager

## CNZ AC Open Championship

A 5-time Open winner, a record 4th Doubles title, 'new-gens' populate the open KO, Platinum & Gold Merit Awards were achieved and an 81-year-old qualifies for the Knockout...

West Coast's Greg Bryant claimed his 5th NZ Open title at Mount Maunganui with a 3-1 victory over rising AC star Josh Freeth.

Bryant started well in the final, taking a 2-game lead in the Best of 5 final before Freeth responded with a 26-0 scoreline in the third. He maintained that momentum into the 4th game when, with a TP finish ahead of him, failed at hoop 3, allowing Bryant to wrap up the match and the title with his own TP finish.

Freeth looked the form player all through block play and the earlier knockout rounds, recording 6TP's and the tournament's only Sextuple Peel to claim his Platinum Merit Award. On the way to his first final appearance he defeated 2016 Champion Aiken Hakes in a gruelling 5 game quarter final, before dispatching South Canterbury's Edmund Fordyce in a 4-game semi. His first-round opponent, 81-year-old Jim Wardle, may well have become the oldest player to reach the KO stages of the event under its current format, introduced before Josh was born.

The Bronze medal for players eliminated from the main event KO was won by long-time Opens campaigner Dennis Bulloch. In the Singles Plate event for non-qualifiers, 1st time entrant Logan McCorkindale achieved his 1st TP for a Gold Merit Award in the Plate final, but was ultimately defeated by the vastly more experienced John Christie in a Bo3 Plate final. Logan was awarded the Charles Jones Memorial Salver - awarded to the best performance by a player with a scratch+ handicap.



*Phyllis Young with Greg Bryant, 5 time Open Champion*

Chris and Jenny Clarke become the most successful NZ Open Doubles pairing by winning their 4th title - three of those achieved in the last four seasons.

Having narrowly survived two matches of the qualifying rounds on Day 1, they were largely untroubled throughout the knockout stages, recording straight 2-0 victories on their way to their record title. Wellington pairing Paul Skinley and Harps Tahurangi were runners-up.



*Chris and Jenny Clarke, Doubles Champions*

Toby Garrison made a return to the lawns to partner another young up-and-coming Kaleb Small to win the Doubles Plate event, defeating local BoP players Bruce Baker and Mike Crashley.

### CNZ GC Nationals

46 players travelled to Nelson – including some from Australia - for the 2019 GC National Championships taking place over 7 hectic days of competition.

An intense two days witnessed 20 pairs competing for the doubles title. Initial play was held in two blocks, with the top two pairs in each block qualifying for a semi-final place, and the remainder playing in the plate knock-out.



*All doubles competitors ready for play*

Semi-finals were played as a best of three games, and both matches went the full distance. With one game all between Ellie Ross and Duncan Dixon against Felix Webby and his partner Phillip Drew, the game went the full distance with the latter edging ahead to win the decider 7-6.

The other semi-final also witnessed a tight tussle with Dennis Bulloch and Jace Hobbs winning the first game against Joshua Freeth and Hamish McIntosh 7-4. Once again Joshua and Hamish came back strongly to take out the second game 7-4 and forcing a decider. This game proved more straightforward for Joshua and Hamish with them easing to a 7-2 victory to take the match.

With both semi-finals having run to their full three games, it was late afternoon before the final eventually started, and this saw Joshua Freeth and Hamish McIntosh winning the match and the National Doubles crown in straight games 7-5, 7-4, thus having only lost one game (in the semi-final) on their way to a well-deserved title.



*Hamish McIntosh and Josh Freeth not only won the doubles but also demonstrated great team co-ordination.*

The Plate knock-out for the remaining pairs also saw some great games, resulting eventually in a win for Edmund Fordyce and George Coulter who beat Angus Coulter and Chris Spittle 7-3.

Singles play commenced on the Monday with a large field of 41 competitors playing in seven blocks of five and one block of six players. Whilst the weather was fine, there were, unusually for Nelson, extremely strong winds which proved very challenging for all players.

A new format for 2019 meant that the top three from the initial blocks qualified to proceed into the Medal round which involved four blocks of six playing best of three matches, the others taking part in the Plate competition.

The latter consisted of a block of 14 single games which ultimately resulted in an excellent winning performance by Mike Crashley with 13 wins and only 1 loss, followed as runner up by Doug Nottage who edged out Kate McLoughlin (Australia). Both had 10 wins and 4 losses, however Doug took the slot by virtue of a better net hoops.

By Wednesday, with the Medal in full flow, conditions were again hot, but the wind was not as severe on Wednesday. There was fierce competition, with a good percentage of the matches running to a full three games. The six players who did not qualify for the final knock-out went forward to compete for the Bowl which was played as a best of three block. Winner of the Bowl was Ellie Ross by a very close margin based on net games won from Helen Reeves.

The sixteen qualifiers played a full knock-out for the final stage of the tournament with player's choice for the draw and with play commencing on Thursday morning. Weather was cooler and slightly overcast, but the high winds of the previous days had abated, so play was far more comfortable.

Through the final knock-out, the familiar names of Felix Webby, Duncan Dixon and Edmund Fordyce made it through to the semi-finals, joined by Brett McHardy (Australia) who overcame Brian Bullen in a tightly fought quarter final over three games.

In the semi-finals, both Felix and Edmund overcame Brett and Duncan respectively, in relative comfort, setting up the best of five final to be played on Friday morning. As it turned out, Edmund won the final in straight sets 7-4, 7-3, 7-6. Third place was taken by Duncan Dixon who beat Brett McHardy 5-7, 7-3, 7-0.

Thanks go to Nelson Hinemoa for hosting a great tournament, all the volunteers who assisted during the week and, in particular, to Betty Winterburn who stepped in to act as tournament manager at short notice.



*Felix Webby and Edmund Fordyce prepare for final battle.*

## Regional News

### Waikanae Croquet Club Open Tournament

WAIKANAЕ CROQUET CLUB held the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Waikanae Open Tournament early in November. This Tournament was first held in 1988 and has been competed for annually. To commemorate the occasion, the competition was extended to three days and a full field of twenty participated. It was great to watch players of this level competing on our lawns.



*Competitors at the 1<sup>st</sup> Waikanae Open 1988*

Overall winner of the competition was Graeme Roberts a well-known Life Member of Croquet NZ. First time entrant Dennis Bulloch, formerly of Nelson Hinemoa CC who now resides in Palmerston North, was runner up. In 3<sup>rd</sup> place was Paul Skinley of Wellington, followed by Harps Tahurangi of Wainuiomata.

In the inaugural tournament, 30 years ago Graeme was runner up. Graeme was one of four participating this year along with three others who also participated in the original sixteen in 1988. They were Kevin Fellows who organised and managed the first and subsequent

tournaments until the 90s; Steve Jones who donated the trophy that is competed for each year, and also Liz McLay. Then two years later in 1990 Graeme was 1<sup>st</sup> in the Tournament. He has not competed every year since, but it was great to watch his very precise play over the whole Tournament, especially the final game which he completed with a Triple Peel.

## World Croquet Federation Events

### WCF U21 GC World Championship 2019

(Nottingham Croquet Club, 20-24 July 2019)

**HOT OFF THE PRESS:-** With a capacity of only 24, the following players have earned well-deserved places:-

Felix Webby - defending U21 World Champion;  
Edmund Fordyce; Jason Hodgett; Angus Coulter;  
Logan McCorkindale; Ellie Ross; Nathan Bullen; Chris Spittal; Kaleb Small; Jeff Gatchell

### WCF Simon Carter GC World Championship 2019

(Sussex, England, 27<sup>th</sup> July-4<sup>th</sup> August 2019)

With an event capacity of 80, and well over 200 applicants, many congratulations go to the following for earning places:-

Felix Webby; Duncan Dixon; George Coulter; Joshua Freeth; Brian Bullen; Hamish McIntosh

## Constitution Re-write Project

By Kareen McLaren

The Constitution Re-write Project received a mandate to proceed at the 2018 AGM. The key driver for this piece of work is the 2016 Incorporated Societies Act Bill which is moving through its readings and expected to be enacted around 2019/2020 substantive as presented in the Bill.

The impact for Croquet NZ is that much of our constitution, as currently written, would be non-compliant and pose an unnecessary risk to the organisation. The CNZ Executive is seeking to close out this risk by taking legal advice to start the process of constitution update now.

Kathie Grant is leading this Constitution Re-write Project with support from Karen McLaren and Jake Inwood, as well as a core group of three peer reviewers selected for their expertise in the legal profession, long standing membership with CNZ, and experience of club and association level management.

Critical to the success of this project will be opportunities throughout the process for members feedback. The project saw its establishment in November 2018, following the AGM, and the team is starting to develop the document map to identify the key sections and cross-referencing needs. This phase is currently taking place. This will inform quality writing of the various sections between February to June 2019 and full draft document release for member feedback in July 2019. Refinement will then take place with a final draft document released September for club/association review and instructions to their delegates.

We aim to gain delegate feedback and full approval or approval in principle (subject to minor final modifications) at the October 2019 AGM. If this can be achieved, we would look to implement the constitution change during November and December 2019, depending on the number of AGM change requirements. In January 2020 we plan to complete a project review and present any lessons learned from the exercise, together with recommendations, tools and templates to support association and club level constitutional changes that may also be needed for compliance.

The plan is to publish a regular slot for this project over the coming year as we want to keep members informed of progress and promote when we will be issuing re-write sections for wider feedback.

## Obituary - Ian McClymont

Whilst we do not, as a rule, include obituaries in Croquet Matters, we felt that special mention should be made of the December Dominion Post notice relating to the death of former Rose Gardens member, Ian McClymont, in his 100<sup>th</sup> year. A long-standing AC player, Ian had a unique style of play, with a very short mallet, but was deadly accurate and his last recorded AC handicap (2011) was 2.5. A fantastic achievement for a player well into his 90's.



*The above photo shows Ian, partnering the late Jim Arthurs (Levin) in the AC HC Doubles at the 2007 Feilding Tournament. A combined age of about 180!*

## Grateful Thanks

**Firstly**, some words from a regular player to our Volunteers...

'Many clubs and Associations are hosting tournaments during the season. A huge thanks must be given to all the volunteers who so willingly give of their time setting up lawns, managing tournaments, refereeing, offering clubhouse hospitality, and helping in so many ways.

There will have been many hours of work prior to an event getting lawns groomed and ready for play. For many of these folks, their days begin around 7 a.m. and they may not get home until 9 p.m. or later.

Days may be long and hot, but it is always nice to see players working with volunteers at the conclusion of their games or matches by assisting with tidying the lawns.

Volunteers - you do a wonderful job and all players thank you!

**Secondly**, to a very special Greg Bryant, Sports Development Officer, who recently went 'above and beyond the call of duty' to assist a fellow player. The President of Paeroa Croquet Club, Chris Bird, sent a letter into National office expressing his grateful thanks to Greg for ensuring that he received the swift hospital treatment required after a sudden collapse (subsequently diagnosed as a stroke).

Chris had been attending a Level 1 coaching course run by Greg when taken ill. Thanks to Greg's help, Chris is 'still smiling, back at home with all normal functions', and he will still have the opportunity to become a Coach, so he can give back to others.