



CROQUET MATTERS

FEBRUARY 2019

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Notes from the Editor

I hope you are enjoying your croquet this season.

It has recently been confirmed that New Zealand is hosting another prestigious world event next year. Tier 1 of the Golf Croquet World Team Championship will be held at Nelson-Hinemoa Croquet Club from Monday 6th January to Sunday 12th January 2020 inclusive.

The eight teams entitled to compete are: Australia, Egypt, England, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden and USA.

These events, in conjunction with publicity, help promote our sport to the wider community. Whether it is an article in the local paper about a forthcoming club tournament or whether a feature on a TV programme, publicity makes more people aware what a great sport we are all involved with.

Regards

Jackie

From the President



Kia ora,

What an amazing **Women's World's Golf Croquet Championship!** Well done to our NZ women! **Congratulations to Jenny Clarke who won a Bronze medal, Dallas Cooke who won the Shield, Ellie Ross who was runner up in the Bowl, and Phyllis Young who won the Plate.** The Egyptian women were formidable players who gave the women from the eight countries quite a challenge. It was exciting to award the place each woman received alongside the World Croquet Federation President, **Amir Naguib.**

I would like to **congratulate Jenny Clarke and Marion Taylor** for qualifying for the Women's World's. They had two days of play in a field of 17 players to win one of the five places. **Thanks to Michael Hardman** for managing the qualifying event.

A special thank you to the team that made the Women's World's a smoothly run and fun tournament: **John Christie**, Tournament Director; **Geoff Young**, Tournament Manager, **Brian Boutel**, Referee of the Tournament, **Colin Hurst**, Assistant Manager, **Sheila Hurst** and her **Organising Committee; Colleen Stephens** for the fantastic media coverage, and all the people behind the scenes who set up the lawns, mowed lawns, refereed, scored games, catered, fundraised, and made it a truly special event. An enormous **thank you** is given to **Croquet Hawke's Bay** for hosting the event. We are proud of the work Croquet Hawke's Bay did.

In April, CNZ will send a team to Melbourne, Australia to defend the **Golf Croquet Trans-Tasman Test Series**. The best of New Zealand will play against the best of Australia. **Congratulations to Dallas Cooke, Edmund Fordyce, Ellie Ross, George Coulter, Helen Reeves, Duncan Dixon, Sonya Sedgwick, and Captain Felix Webby. Phillip Drew** is the manager for the team. Reserves are: **Josh Freeth, Phyllis Young and Ashley Cooke**. We wish them the best and to bring home the trophy again.

As many of you may remember, Waimarie Croquet Club lost their lease and had to move to a new location. For over 5 years the club has been planning and raising funds for this move. The club will have their official opening on 2nd March. We are delighted that they have made the transition and are enjoying their new location. I look forward to helping them to open it.

The Executive is going through changes with the transition plan that we are progressing and other changes as well. Councillor Tom Devlin has resigned because he is no longer playing croquet. It will be a loss for us and Fendalton Croquet Club where he served as president for many years. Karen McLaren and Kathie Grant's resignations also have been accepted by the Executive. The Executive is actively working on plans to co-opt members for the next seven months. We will keep you updated as the plans develop. We wish them all well and thank them for their contributions.

Next month there will be an update on the transition plan and our plans for moving forward.

Warm regards,

Annie

Upcoming CNZ Tournaments

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

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

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

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

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

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

Click on any of the links above for more information.

CNZ Tournament Roundup

6th WCF Women's World GC Tournament



A View from the Boundary

The sixth Women's World GC Tournament, now held approximately every four years, took place in Hawke's Bay at the start of this month. 56 players and officials were welcomed by Heretaunga Croquet Club during a wonderful opening ceremony. With a backdrop of Te Mata Peak and a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, it was a lovely setting. During the tournament, Marewa Croquet Club also proved to be a great venue with equally good hospitality.

The eight days were long and intense (and not just from the sun!). Let's not forget the heavy rain on a couple of days either. Even though players might have only had two best of three games in a day, they probably would not have originally factored in waiting for a six-hour game to finish or players spending one hour on a single hoop – these were new experiences for many.

As the block stages unfolded, the strength of the Egyptians across the group became quickly apparent. For all our players, however, whether they had previously taken part in this event or not, this was a wonderful opportunity to play matches not only against those from Egypt, but also Australia, USA, England, Scotland, Ireland, and Spain. As the days progressed, the team spirit was really evident with great support of each other's matches. Live commentary from the Clarkes, Jenny online and Chris at the side of the lawn, enhanced the experience and gave lucky spectators the opportunity to learn more whilst listening to Chris share his wealth of knowledge.

Seven Kiwis made it through to the knockout, but come the semi-finals, Jenny was the only one remaining, as well as the only competitor from the rest of the world. 'Gallant Clarke' – as described by NZ Herald - could not prevent the sixth edition turning into an all-Egyptian final affair, despite having 'thrown the kitchen sink' at the challenge. Jenny found herself two matches down before clawing her way back to level at 2-2, eventually losing 3-2 (3-7, 4-7, 7-6, 7-4, 6-7) to Soha Mostafa from Cairo. Down to the 13th hole of the fifth game – the tension was extreme for the enthusiastic group of spectators.



The final also proved worthy of the large number of croquet supporters, who witnessed a high-quality match with marvellous shots from both players. The by now hot favourite, Soha, realised her dream by winning in four games against her compatriot Manal Khoudier 7-1 5-7 7-3 7-4.

Meanwhile, in the days after the block play, there was evident pride that our players were representing their country and all continued to give 100%, whichever section they were then playing in. Not only did Jenny finish fourth overall; but Dallas Cooke won the Shield; Ellie Ross was runner-up in the Bowl; and Phyllis Young won the Plate.

To aspiring future champs, Soha Mostafa started playing aged 15. During her first women's world champs in 2005, she finished in 16th place in the plate section. In both 2011 and 2014 world champs she failed to make the knockout playoffs and now eventually has won the tournament aged 29 years.

A big thank you must go to the managers, referees, and very many helpers for their time and commitment both before and during the tournament – it was a great success. This was witnessed by the presence of The Crowd Goes Wild TV programme, who latched on to Janine McHardy from Australia splitting a ball into three whilst taking a shot, and local photographers with daily newspaper reports. But it was much more than this – it was all akin to a worldwide croquet family coming together, with an abiding memory of the final hugs, handshakes, laughter and smiles, group photos, swapping of email addresses, new Facebook friendships and a promise to meet again. As the delightful Nicola from Ireland said to the merry multi-national group gathered at the local coffee shop shortly after the event:- 'Let's now aim for the World Women's AC – see you back in NZ next year'.



Jenny Clarke was the last New Zealander standing in the knock-out, losing an intense 5 game semi-final battle against eventual World Champion Soha Mostafa

Women's World GC Championships Qualifying Tournament

By Michael Hardiman

This tournament was held on 30th and 31st January at Rangatira club in Dannevirke. 17 players (11 from NZ, 6 from Australia) competed for the 5 qualifying places at the Women's World GC Championships in Hawkes Bay. The weather was hot (the Australians were commenting on it as well as the Kiwis!) and lawns were fairly fast.

The number of entries and qualifying places was an awkward combination for a good format. We started with block play in 2 blocks, 1 of 9 and 1 of 8 (so two fewer rounds for Block B). The top 2 in each block qualified for the Worlds. They were offered the opportunity to play semi-finals and final plus 3rd/4th playoff; however, two players declined so there was only a final. The next 3 in each block played a further block to determine the 5th qualifier and positions 6-10 in case there were further withdrawals from the Worlds. The remaining 7 players played each other for as many rounds as they wanted.

Qualifiers for the Women's World Championships were Jenny Clarke (Canterbury) and Anne Woodhouse (Australia), the block winners, Geraldine Trivett (Australia) and Nuran Melksham (Australia), the block runners-up, and Marion Taylor (Auckland), winner of the 5th to 10th block.

The places in the 5th to 10th block were only decided in the final round. Leila Martin was 6th and next in line but only after count-back from Lynette Grant, with whom she tied on wins and net points; Vanessa Hanna was only one net point behind.

Regional News

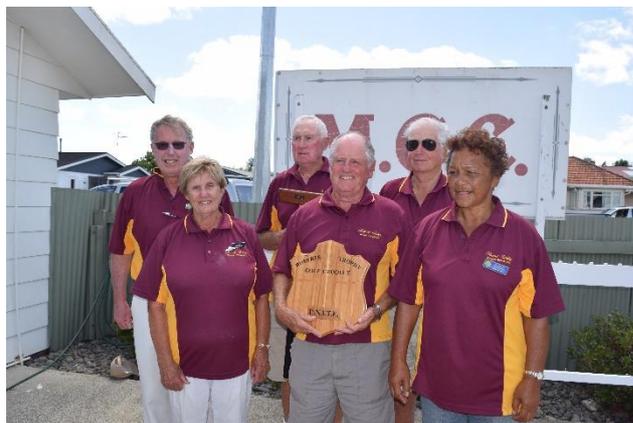
Unite Croquet Tournament

By Clem Apted

Every year there is a Golf Croquet Competition held among teams of 6 representing their Provinces. This year, held at The Morrinsville Club, Thames Valley were the victors over Northland, Counties, Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Auckland who were runners up.

The tournament is run over 3 gruelling days with each player playing 10 singles and 5 doubles in their division.

The Thames Valley team was dominated by Morrinsville club members, the exception being John Flinn from Whangamata (pictured holding the shield in the picture below).



from left top row, John Christie, Clem Apted, and Ross Downs, bottom left Phyllis Young, John Flinn and Grace Everest.

Obituary

Life Member of Waikanae Croquet Club

Maureen Roger joined the WCC in 1982 and soon became an active member of the Club. She was Treasurer from 1985 – 1988, a very popular Club Captain in 1991, and umpire from 1990, and committee member for several years. From coaching new members, supporting them to enter both club and CNZ Tournaments, to encouraging members to go along as supporters for players in tournaments, Maureen always gave her best and with a sense of fun. She will be remembered very fondly by all who knew her.



Maureen Roger 1926-2019