



CROQUET MATTERS

APRIL 2019

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Note from the Editor

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Our GC Trans-Tasman team have just clinched the Series in the most nail-biting fashion. As I write this note just prior to circulation, eight very happy players and an equally happy manager are returning home from Melbourne, having successfully defended the Series. Well played to Australia, too!

Just the most fantastic result and we will be reporting on the event in the next edition of Croquet Matters.

I hope you all have had an enjoyable season with plenty of fun, competition and camaraderie along the way.

Regards

Jackie

From the President



Kia ora,

The official season is closing down for clubs, associations and CNZ. It is a time of celebrations and elections. Celebrations will be held to honour those who competed and played well.

Elections will identify those who are willing to take on leadership roles in their clubs, regions and CNZ. I would like to address these vital aspects of our sport.

Celebrations:

CNZ tournaments are completed at the national level. I would like to congratulate the following players:-

CA Silver Tray AC Open Invitation: **Greg Bryant** (West Coast) as the **winner** and **Felix Webby** (Taranaki) as the **runner up**.

Miss Edwina Thompson Silver Tray AC Open Invitation: **John Christie** (Thames Valley) as the **winner** and **Jace Hobbs** (Nelson) and **Peter Parkinson** (as the **runners up**).

Mrs. R.A. Clarke Copper Tray AC Invitation: **Doug Van Belle** (WLG) as the **winner** and **Stefan Horrer** (Wairarapa) as the **runner up** with a countback to determine the winner.

CA Gold Cup AC Invitation: **Robbie Spooner** (WLG) as the winner and **Jonathan Hart** (Canterbury) as the runner up.

Don Reyland Stars: **Hamish MacIntosh** (AKL) as the **winner** and **Robbie Spooner** as the **runner up**.

Yvonne Yeates GC Invitation: **Josh Freeth** (AKL) as the **winner** and **Hamish MacIntosh** (AKL) as the **runner up** with a countback of 6 net points.

Duncan Dixon GC Invitation: **Angus Coulter** (Bay of Plenty) as the **winner** and **Jeff Gatchell** (Manawatu-Wanganui) as the **runner up**.

Geoff Young GC Invitation: **Seddon Polglase** (Waikato-King Country) as the **winner** and **Roger Adamson** (Counties Manukau) as the **runner up** with a countback of net points.

Gordon Smith GC Invitation: **Te Kiri King** (South Taranaki) as the **winner** and **John Morgan** (Otago) as the **runner up**.

A special recognition goes to **Robbie Spooner** for his play in both codes: AC and GC. Well done.

CNZ is particularly grateful to the managers for their work and to clubs and associations for hosting CNZ tournaments. I would like to thank the following associations, clubs and managers in the latest CNZ tournaments:

Croquet Auckland, Epsom Remuera and Takapuna Clubs: **Nelson Morrow** (player/manager) and **Ronnie Richardson**

Croquet Canterbury, United Club: **Tony O'Donnell** and **Aaron Westerby** (Auckland player/ manager)

Counties-Manukau Association, Howick and Manurewa Clubs: **Ceri Gavi** and **Cynthia Bates**

Thames Valley Association, Morrinsville Club: **Geoff Young**

Wairarapa Association, Masterton Club: **Neil Williamson**

Wellington Association, Wellington Clubs: **Paul Skinley**

On behalf of Croquet New Zealand, I would like to thank all clubs, associations and managers for the fantastic work you have done this year and the service you give to our sport.

Elections

In the next few months clubs and associations will be electing their officers and committee members for the 2019-2020 season. The leadership at the local and regional levels makes a difference in how well the clubs and regional bodies ensure that all croquet players are held in the highest regard; that coaching improves the skills of all players; that competitions are seen as a way to challenge players to play their best; and that all aspects of the sport are learned. I salute our presidents and committees who take on a leadership role that moves the club forward; who understand that both codes (AC and GC) are equally important; who develop support within the

committee and throughout the club and region; who celebrate the achievements of all players; and who understand that the local, regional and national levels are connected. What ties everything together is the vision.

Every club member should be familiar with the vision of their own club. Croquet New Zealand's (CNZ) vision is to "Have more people playing better croquet more often". As President of CNZ my vision that supports the CNZ vision is to have an organisation that is well-run to support the development of croquet at all levels. Understanding what is entailed to make it happen and how each decision either supports or detracts from the vision makes a difference if you continue on a forward path. It is the reason thoughtful decisions should be made when electing officers and committee members at all levels. I wish you the best with each club and association election. Everyone is important. Please remember that CNZ is here to support your work.

Nominations for CNZ Executive and Awards

Nominations for CNZ Executive and awards are due by **31 July 2019** to the National Office. The nomination form will be on the website for easier access. Later in this edition of *Croquet Matters* the upcoming vacant positions will be posted. I hope that your association (regional body) will nominate someone who has the skills to continue to move CNZ forward.

My last message was written prior to the tragedy in Christchurch. All of us were gutted to learn about the shooting. As Prime Minister Jacinda Arden said, "This is not us". I would like to extend to those communities affected by the tragedy my heartfelt regards and sympathy. CNZ had tournaments scheduled about two weeks afterwards. The National Office checked with the clubs and managers about whether or not to go ahead with the tournaments. After consultation, it was decided to continue the tournaments. We know that the players were bringing their care into the community.

Best to all clubs and associations with their elections. Best to the Golf Croquet Trans-Tasman Team who are playing against Australia commencing 25th April.

Warm regards,

Annie

CNZ Tournament Roundup

2019 AC Invitation Events

The CNZ 2019 AC Invitation events took place between 20th and 24th March.

The Miss Edwina Thompson Silver Tray and Croquet Association Silver Tray were both hosted by the Canterbury Association at United CC. The Mrs R A Clarke Copper Tray was hosted by the Wellington Association and played at Wellington Municipal CC, and the Croquet Association Gold Cup by Wairarapa Association, played at Masterton CC.

While play was well underway on Friday 22nd March, each tournament came to a stop at 1.32pm to observe 2 minutes silence in memory of those lost and affected by the tragic events that occurred one week earlier in Christchurch.

In the CA Silver Tray, Greg Bryant (West Coast) emerged victorious, dropping only one game on his way to the title, winning 11 of his 12 games. Felix Webby (Taranaki), who was the only player to beat Greg, was runner-up with 7 wins from his 12 games.



Greg Bryant, winner of the CNZ 2019 Croquet Association Silver Tray Open Invitation

The Miss Edwina Thompson Silver Tray was moved from its originally scheduled venue and was played alongside the CA Silver Tray at United Croquet Club ensuring a great atmosphere.

John Christie (Thames Valley) recorded 10 wins in his 12 games to claim the title. Close behind were Jace Hobbs (Nelson Hinemoa), and Peter Parkinson, both with 8 wins.



John Christie, winner of the CNZ 2019 Miss Edwina Thompson Silver Tray Open Invitation

It was a very closely contested race for the Mrs R A Clarke Copper Tray title in Wellington with two players, Doug Van Belle (Wellington) and Stefan Horrér (Wairarapa), both finishing with 8 wins from their 9 games. Horrér's only defeat came at the hands of fellow club mate Terry Price (Wairarapa), while Van Belle's only loss was to Horrér. With the title decided on count-back, it was Van Belle who edged Horrér by 4 net hoops to claim the victory. In third place was Peter Westaway (Otago) with 6 wins.

Only one week after winning the Arthur Ross final in Wellington, Robbie Spooner (Wellington) added another trophy to his collection, winning the CA Gold Cup. Spooner won 8 of his 9 games to secure the trophy by a clear margin. It was, however, a close contest behind him with Baubre Murray (Wellington), Stewart Pye (Wairarapa) and Jonathan Hart (Canterbury) all recording 6 wins. Jonathan Hart took second place with +30 net hoops and Baubre Murray third with +27 hoops.

Many thanks go to the hosting associations and, in particular, the respective hosting clubs, their dedicated volunteers, and the very hard-working tournament managers, without whom these events really could not take place.



Doug Van Belle, winner of CNZ 2019 Mrs R A Clarke Copper Tray Invitation



Robbie Spooner, winner of CNZ 2019 Croquet Association Gold Cup Invitation

For the full results of all these events, please click on the links below:-

[Croquet Association Silver Tray](#)

[Miss Edwina Thompson Silver Tray](#)

[Mrs R A Clarke Copper Tray](#)

[Croquet Association Gold Cup](#)

2019 Don Reyland Stars National Final

Players from around the country converged on Morrinsville Croquet Club over the weekend of the 30th-31st March to contest the premier GC Handicap event in the country, Don Reyland Stars.

13 Croquet Associations were represented by players who had won through their respective club and Association play-offs for the right to contest the national title. This season saw a wide range of handicaps from -4 right up to 10, and a range of ages from 15 years up to 86 years.

The successful players who had battled through to the final were:-

- Hamish McIntosh (Auckland)
- Marshall Hyland (Bay Of Plenty)
- Josh Winter (Canterbury)
- Ngaire Newdick (Counties-Manukau)
- Tina Duley (Hawkes Bay)
- Nicholas Flood (Manawatu-Wanganui)
- Jeff Sawyer (Marlborough)
- Stephen Green (Nelson)
- Kaye Bridge (Northland)
- Jack Ellery (South Canterbury)
- Murray Jackson (Thames Valley)
- Allister McGregor (Waikato-King Country)
- Robbie Spooner (Wellington)

Played in reasonable weather conditions, with just some occasional drizzle and one very brief stoppage during a heavy shower, the block play saw some intense and tight competition, with a significant number of games won by just a single hoop.

After a single round robin was played, Hamish McIntosh (Auckland, -4) and Robbie Spooner (Wellington, 3) found themselves locked at 10 wins and 2 losses each. Just behind them was Josh Winter (Canterbury) with 9 wins from his 12 games.



Don Reyland Stars Finals top three (left to right), Josh Winter (third), Hamish McIntosh (Gold) and Robbie Spooner (Silver).

Hamish McIntosh was the only person standing in the way of Robbie Spooner claiming his third title in as many weekends, having already previously secured the Arthur Ross Memorial Final and CA Gold Cup Invitation titles.

Having lost to Hamish in the block games 0-7, Robbie was seeking to gain revenge in the play-off final. Despite putting up a good fight, this was not to be, however, with Hamish McIntosh proving to be too good and securing the title with a 7-4 victory.

Thanks go to Morrinsville Croquet Club and its accommodating members, tournament manager Geoff Young and the dedicated volunteers for putting on a great weekend of top-quality croquet.

For full results of the Don Reyland Stars Finals click on the link below:-

[CNZ 2019 Don Reyland GC Stars Finals](#)

[2019 CNZ GC Invitation Events](#)

The 2018-19 CNZ tournament calendar concluded over the weekend of 5th-7th April with the completion of the various GC Invitations. During a hotly contested finish to the season, three of the four GC Invitations had to be decided on count back.

In the Yvonne Yeates Invitation, played at Epsom Remuera CC, the weather was not kind, with flooding to the lawns causing a long delay to the start of play on the Saturday morning, which in turn meant the matches ran on until the light forced a halt to play. Despite this, all matches were eventually completed, and battling a very strong field of competitors, it was the Auckland duo of Josh Freeth and Hamish McIntosh, both playing at their home club, who found themselves tied at the top of the table. The pair both won 8 of their 9 matches throughout the weekend. With the pair tied on wins and net games, the title was ultimately determined by net hoops where Freeth was victorious, having a +6 advantage over McIntosh. In third place was Logan McCorkindale with a record of 6 wins in his 9 matches.

The Duncan Dixon Invitation, played at Takapuna CC was the sole event over the weekend to have an outright winner, Angus Coulter (Bay of Plenty). Coulter won 8 matches on his way to securing the title, dropping only one match and four total games in the process. Jeffery Gatchell (Manawatu-Wanganui) was the runner-up having won 7 of his 9 matches. Phyllis Young, with 6 wins pipped husband Geoff Young (5 wins) for third place.



Josh Freeth, Yvonne Yeates GC Invitation Winner



Angus Coulter, 2019 Duncan Dixon GC Invitation winner

It was a three-way tie at the top of the table in the Geoff Young Invitation played at Manurewa CC, with Seddon Polglase (Waikato-King Country), Tim Brooker (Waikato-King Country) and Roger Adamson (Counties Manukau) all having 7 wins each. With the title decided by net games, it was Polglase who prevailed +1 over both Adamson and Brooker. Adamson then edged Brooker for second with superior net hoops.

In the Gordon Smith Invitation held at Howick CC, it was promising youngster Te Kiri King (Sth Taranaki) who was crowned champion on net games over John Morgan (Otago). After 7 rounds, both King and Morgan had accumulated 6 wins. It was King's ability to win matches in straight games (5 of his 6 wins were 2-0) that proved to be the difference.

Third place was also a very tight affair with both Stephen Turner (Matamata) and Murray Shaw (Doubtless Bay) having 4 wins, Turner taking third place by virtue of 2 net hoops.



Seddon Polglase 2019 Geoff Young GC Invitation Winner



Te Kiri King (centre) 2019 Gordon Smith GC Invitation winner with John Morgan (right) runner-up

Q & A with Brian Boutel

Striking ball while casting in AC

The following letter was received from one of our readers, and is not so much a question, rather than a comment on the rules as they stand. It was sent for consideration to Brian Boutel, Chair of the WCF GC Rules Committee.

To the Editor

As a competitive player of both golf and association croquet for many years, it has become a real bug-bear to me that striking the ball while casting in association play is not counted as "the turn".

My experience in both codes has shown that a player in GC rarely strikes the ball while casting, but the same player strikes the ball while casting in AC and then gets to replace it for another go! Where is the logic in that? There is much to be gained and lost by both the in-player, and the out-player because this is allowed. To me this can be construed as a practice shot, whether or not it was accidental!

During a match, I watched an opponent play a shot sending the ball metres away but missing the angled hoop the player was trying to make, however, I was told it was a casting stroke. The ball was replaced, and the stroke was replayed successfully. The same player went on to have four very angled short shots at hoops, all were successful after being replaced from the "casting" stroke. This is just one instance of my experience. It has happened many times over the years and I find it so frustrating. I just cannot follow the logic of it being allowed! i.e.: I wonder if, when a casting stroke played "by accident" struck the object ball or made the hoop, whether the player would own up and say "that was my casting stroke, I'll have to do that again".

I would like to see the rule changed so that when the striker's ball is struck by the striker's mallet, it is "the turn". If a player can play GC without striking while casting, then a player can also play AC without striking while casting!

No doubt there are many others who feel the same way, so it must be time for a rule change!

Response from Brian Boutel

First, AC and GC are different games with different rules. While many AC players also play some GC, very many GC players do not play, and have no interest in playing, AC.

As chair of the WCF GC Rules Committee, I can confirm that getting the rules changed requires a huge effort to overcome entrenched traditional views.

When the new GC rules were being drawn up last year, there was an instruction from the WCF to align the two codes where the differences were not essential, but when issues like accidental contact came up, there was great resistance from players. Typical responses were "Why should we change?"; "Let them change their rules"; "Why should GC have to do things the AC way", etc. Of course, the same sort of comment would result if it were suggested that AC should change to do things the GC way.

Actually, it is not quite as bad as that. GC did change some things to match AC, and I expect that when the next AC Laws are published, they will change some things to be more like GC.

Remember that croquet is played in many countries, each with their own tradition. It can be difficult to get agreement to change, and changes have to be agreed by a two-thirds majority of the votes of WCF Member Countries. The allocation of votes makes it possible for as few as 3 of the 20 WCF members to defeat any proposal, however sensible its proponents consider it to be.

In the particular case of casting and accidental contact, the differences between the two codes arise from a difference in attitude. AC is concerned with what the player intended to do, so if it is claimed that contact with the ball was accidental and not intended to be a stroke, then that is accepted. In other words the player is trusted to be honest. In GC, the common attitude is that players and referees are not mind-readers and there is no way of determining what the player intended to do. That is why, in the GC rule on the striking period, it does not say "takes a stance with the intent to play a stroke", but "takes a stance with apparent intent to play a stroke". The word "apparent" implies that it has to be obvious what the player was intending to do.

I understand the frustration that can arise if a player thinks that their opponent is cheating, and in the kind of circumstances the questioner raises, there is a case for tightening the rules somewhat. While I am not a member of the WCF AC Laws Committee, I expect that a new version of the AC Laws will be published quite soon. Watch this space.

Managers' Training Sessions Expression of Interest Requested

Playing in a national tournament is the pinnacle of our sport at a national level. Players who perform well at national tournaments are considered to represent NZ in international events. Well run tournaments make a difference for players. Managers make a difference with the running of tournaments.

CNZ has been blessed with capable managers over the years who have made the tournaments fun and prestigious. Like anything, it is important to have more managers gaining knowledge and experience to manage national events. It has been over 8 years since a managers' training session has been offered.

The Tournament Committee is seeking individuals who would like to learn more about managing tournaments, in order that they can be better managers to express interest.

The training session is the first step to learning more about managing tournaments. The second step is to manage one. The third step is support. CNZ provides support for all managers of CNZ tournaments by meeting with the manager prior to each tournament to discuss all the details of running that tournament. There is also support during the tournament by a subcommittee.

When and where will the sessions be held?

Two sessions have been set for September/October 2019 in Auckland and Christchurch. CNZ will pay for the accommodations, if needed, for one person from each association. If there is space available, more than one person from an Association will be able to attend. The limit is 20 per session. The Association will be responsible for travel. Lunches and teas will be provided.

What will be covered during the weekend session?

All aspects of running a tournament will be covered. An updated "Manager's Manual" will be given for each person. Follow up will be provided as needed.

Who should apply?

Experienced or inexperienced managers are welcome to apply. If you are interested in running tournaments well and are willing to manage a CNZ tournament within two seasons after the session, then please apply. We want people who will manage not only at the national level but at the local and regional levels. It is important to have fun and well-run tournaments at all levels.

How do I apply?

Associations have been asked for expressions of interest, so if you would be interested in attending, please notify your Association as soon as possible as they will coordinate the process. Once the dates for each location are secured (August at the latest), then the Association Secretaries will be asked to identify which venue will be attended.

We hope managers will be identified from each region. If your region doesn't have the capability to host a CNZ tournament, Associations are still encouraged to send a person to a session. CNZ wants to support well-run tournaments at all levels.

Annie Henry
Convenor of CNZ Tournament Committee

Nominations for Executive

Due by 31st July 2019 at the National Office

This year there are the vacancies detailed below. Nominations must go through the Association (regional body). The form will be on the website.

President: Annie Henry has served the maximum of two 2-year terms and is ineligible to stand another term. Nominations are being accepted for this position.

Vice-President: There is a vacancy. The role of the Vice-President is primarily to fill in for the President when needed. The Vice-President also serves on Committee/s.

Councillors: There are three positions receiving nominations:

1. Aaron Westerby has served one 2-year term and is eligible to be nominated for a second term.
2. Neil Bendall was co-opted onto the Executive and will be eligible to stand.
3. There is one vacancy for the South Island. It is a constitutional condition that there must be at least one of the 4 Councillors from the South Island.

George Coulter (Whakatane) is completing his first year of his first term.

If you have questions, please contact the National Office for more information. As part of the process each nominee will receive a call from the President who will explain the responsibilities and answer any questions.

CNZ Awards 2018–19

All award entries and nominations are due 31st July 2019

PRESIDENTS TROPHY Highest club membership increase 2018–19 Season (to 31st March 2019)

2018 Winner: Otorohanga Croquet Club (Waikato-King Country)

HUON PINE BOWL Highest club membership increase 2018–19 Season, Runner-Up (to 31st March 2019)

2018 Winner: Putaruru Croquet Club (Waikato-King Country)

BAKER TROPHY Most improved Association Croquet player

2018 Winner: Stefan Horrer (Wairarapa)

MOST IMPROVED GOLF CROQUET Most improved Golf Croquet player

2018 Winner: Eleanor Ross (Nelson Hinemoa)

CNZ PLAYER OF THE YEAR Association Croquet or Golf Croquet nominations accepted

2018 Winner: Paddy Chapman

CNZ VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR Association nominations accepted.

2018 Winner: Brian Boutel (Wellington)

CNZ CONTRIBUTION TO CROQUET AWARD Association nominations accepted

2018 Winner: Lynley Browne (Otago)

CNZ CLUB PARTICIPATION AWARD – see yearbook (click link below) for the complete information on participation categories and weightings.

[CNZ Full Yearbook 2018-19](#)

2018 Winner: Wellington Municipal Croquet Club (Wellington)

Nomination and entry forms are distributed to all Associations at the beginning of the season. These can also be found on the CNZ website. Please complete and return your forms to croquet@croquet.org.nz before the end of July.