



CROQUET MATTERS

FEBRUARY 2020

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President's Corner

Congratulations to the six Kiwis who made it to the knockout stage of the World AC Championships. It is exciting to see our own players fairing so well in World events.



If ever you have the opportunity to travel to Southland do visit their croquet community. They

really do represent Southland hospitality at its best. From Invercargill to Te Anau seems like another world every short section of the way. I was made welcome at every club in this Association and whether or not it was a normal playing day a large number of players made an effort, not only with wonderful food, but to take

the time to listen and share ideas and thoughts regarding Croquet New Zealand and their club.

Has your Association ever thought about sharing ideas and concerns with another Association? It became clear to me that Southland and Northland share a lot of common issues. Maybe talking issues over with another group from a similar situation could draw out different ways of approaching what previously was seen as an obstacle. With electronic communication remoteness in the country is no longer an excuse for isolation.

All the best to those yet to play in competitions this season. For the social player, have fun and enjoy the spin offs of the competitive player.

Kathie

Tournament Results

CNZ Women's Championship (AC)

1st Carissa Price
 2nd Kathie Grant

CNZ Men's Championship (AC)

1st Greg Bryant
 2nd Steve Jones

CNZ Mixed Doubles Championship (AC)

1st Greg Bryant & Eleanor Ross
 2nd Tony Stephens & Kathie Grant

CNZ Women's AC Invitation

1st Sonya Sedgwick
 2nd Carissa Price

Upcoming CNZ Tournaments

28th February – 1st March 2020

[Arthur Ross National Final at Leith CC, Dunedin](#)

14th – 15th March 2020

[Don Reyland Stars Tournament at Rose Gardens CC, Palmerston North](#)

2020 Association Croquet World Championship

The 2020 Association Croquet World Championships were held in Melbourne, Australia, from 15th to 23rd February 2020.

With 80 of the top AC players in the world converging on Melbourne, New Zealand was well represented with 13 players participating (listed below).

Block play took place over the first 3 days with players split into 8 blocks of 10 players all vying to reach the Knock-Out stage.

Jenny Clarke, the highest ranked women in the field, qualified out of Block C after winning 8 of her 9 games. Defending champion, Paddy Chapman, and New Zealand GCWTC Team Captain, Felix Webby, both won 7 games to qualify from Block E. Chris Shilling (Block F) and Greg Bryant (Block H) both won 7 games to qualify second in their respective Blocks. Logan McCorkindale took the tally of New Zealanders in the Knock-Out stage to 6 after he won his Block F playoff against Australian, Alison Sharpe, 26TP-13.

Round 1 of the Knock-out saw mixed results for the Kiwis with McCorkindale losing to the eventual champion, Reg Bamford, 26-5, 26TP-0 and Shilling losing to Stephen Mulliner 26tpo-17, 26-6. However, Webby, Chapman and Bryant all advanced in straight games and Clarke set up a Round 2 match-up with Bryant with a 12-26, 26-19, 26-0 win in her first-round match.

Webby advanced to the quarter-finals with a 3-1 match win over American, Ben Rothman while Chapman was unfortunately unable to defend his title which he won back in 2018, bowing out in the second round with a 1-3 loss to the eventual runner-up, Matthew Essick (USA). In the all-New Zealand match, it took all 5 games to find the winner. After alternating wins in the first two games, Bryant took the advantage with a win in game 3. However, Clarke fought back forcing a game 5 after winning the 4th

game and then securing the match 3-2 (26-1, 2-26TP, 10-26, 26TP-11, 26-11).

The quarter-finals were as far as the New Zealanders would get in the 2020 edition of this Championship with Clarke going down in straight games to local favourite and World number 1, Robert Fletcher. While Essick claimed his second Kiwi scalp defeating Webby 3-1.

Shilling was the runner-up in the Bowl which was won by Samir Patel (Eng) and Aiken Hakes was the runner-up in the Plate, also to an Englishman, Alan Giraud.

New Zealand Participants:

- Greg Bryant (West Coast)
- Dennis Bulloch (Manawatu-Wanganui)
- Paddy Chapman (West Coast)
- John Christie (Thames Valley)
- Jenny Clarke (Canterbury)
- Vincent Commarieu (Auckland)
- Aiken Hakes (Wellington)
- Logan McCorkindale (South Canterbury)
- Nelson Morrow (Auckland)
- Chris Shilling (Otago)
- Harps Tahurangi (Wellington)
- Felix Webby (Taranaki)
- Michael Wright (Wellington)

CNZ Men's and Women's Championships

Rangitira Croquet Club once again hosted the CNZ Men's and Women's AC Championships from 5th to 9th February 2020.



CNZ Mixed Doubles Winners: Eleanor Ross and Greg Bryant



Women's Championship Winner; Carissa Price

The first two days saw four pairs play a double round robin. The contest was tight and after dropping one game each during the first 5 rounds, it was a winner take all scenario in the final round robin game between Tony Stephens (Hawkes Bay) & Kathie Grant (Auckland) and Greg Bryant (West Coast) & Eleanor Ross (Nelson). Bryant got his name on yet another trophy while Ross

secured her first AC title in just her second event after they avenged their earlier loss to the same opponents, winning the final round-robin game 19-15 and with it, securing the 2020 Mixed Doubles Championships.

In the Women's Singles, it was a new name on the trophy after Manawatu-Wanganui's Carissa Price was victorious. Price reached the final after securing 4 wins in her 5 Block games. Her loss coming against fellow finalist, Grant, who had gone through the Block stage undefeated. In the best-of-three match final, Price only needed the first two games, winning 26-17, 26-5 to secure her first Women's Championship Title.



Men's Championship Winner; Greg Bryant

It was a familiar name on the Men's Championship Trophy with Bryant adding it to his growing list of tournament victories – this marked the 5th occasion he had won this specific event. Bryant advanced to the final with relative ease, winning all 5 of his Block matches including triple peels in four

of them. He was joined in the final by Steve Jones (Manawatu-Wanganui) after he edged Stephens on net-hoops after they had both ended on 3 wins. Similar to Price, Bryant only required two games to

secure his 5th Men's Championship Title winning the best-of-three match 26-23, 26TP-9.

Full Results:

[CNZ Mixed Doubles](#)

[CNZ Men's and Women's Championships](#)

CNZ Women's AC Invitation

The Women's AC Invitation was played in difficult conditions at the Marton Croquet Club as some much-needed rain soaked the lawns.

Played as a single round robin, three players entered the final round on 5 wins. Carissa Price (Manawatu-Wanganui) and Alison Robinson (Wellington), both had 5 wins heading into their final round game which Price won 14-13. Sonya Sedgewick (Hawkes Bay), also entering the final game with 5 wins, won her final round game against Cindy Clarke (BOP), 21-16 to ensure there was a tie at the top of the Block.

With the title having to be determined by net hoops, Sedgwick was declared the winner with a +11 net hoops margin over Price.

Full Results: [CNZ Women's AC Invitation](#)

Club News

UNITE Tournament

It was a sea of colour at the Matamata Croquet Club Anniversary weekend as players came to participate in the 12th Upper North Island Teams Event (UNITE). 6 top players in 3 divisions from Northland, Auckland, Counties-Manukau, Bay of Plenty, Thames Valley and Waikato King Country came to battle it out for the "Ron Roberts Trophy".

Matamata Locals Heather Aitken and Stephen Turner represented us as part of the Waikato King Country team.

Each player played 15 games over the weekend comprising of 2 singles and 1 doubles game.

This event has been running since 2009, when the Croquet President at the time decided that Golf Croquet should also have a teams event as Association Croquet had.

So, he found 3 men from each area in the North Island to run it with Geoff Young (Morrinsville) being chosen to get things going for the upper north and he is still involved and this weekend played for Thames

Valley.



Winning Bay of Plenty Team: David Roberts, Graham Wilson, Gretchen Benvie (Manager), Clive Taylor, Grahame Benvie, Cherie Baunton & Jill King.

A few years ago the Upper North decided to change the format to what we have today – 5 tests and the winner is the one who wins the most tests. The players did a brilliant job of playing in the extreme heat, especially when some games went well over an hour and to the 13th hoop.

Sunday night saw some relief with the RSA Club Matamata putting on a lovely meal for us and it was great chance to relax and catch up with each other. The final day came and with it a very tense last few games to see who would be the eventual winner. Three regions were in the running to come out on top. In the end Bay of Plenty came through to claim the trophy.

We were honoured to have the trophy's designer and maker, Ron Roberts, come to present the trophy and he told us that he had made 5 designs and at the last minute put in a 6th one and that was the one we have today.

Hawkes Bay GC Tournament

Heretaunga Croquet Club will be playing host to the Hawkes Bay Golf Croquet Ranking Tournament on the 13th, 14th and 15th of March 2020.

This event offers something for everyone with Handicap Doubles (13th), Open Singles and Handicap Singles (14th & 15th).

Thanks to their sponsors, there is even a \$200 travel grant up for grabs!

For more information click [here](#), or to enter, email Neil Armitage: neil.armitage@xtra.co.nz.

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