



CROQUET MATTERS

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President’s Corner

Given the withdrawal of Grant money it was great to hear about the club who has bought a new lawn



mower. In place of grant money, which the club was about to apply for as they had saved up half the amount, members either donated or loaned money to the club for this joyful event to happen. It was great when the news came that croquet lawns could be mowed so the new machine

could be used. That was after the lawns had been swept clear of the acorns. Working through Sport New Zealand to lobby for our specific needs has been beneficial. Some places say their club lawns have benefitted from the lack of play.

Some people have been creative in utilizing their back yards. On Facetime I saw one makeshift lawn with a

fence post placed in the center of the lawn to be used as a peg. It was still a challenge to hit the “peg”.

As for meetings: Well done those Clubs and Associations that have successfully used Zoom. Moving to the digital era enables meetings and communications to proceed. Great to hear about the telephone networking in Southland and see a couple of the very entertaining newsletters produced by Pukekohe. I am sure those places who are focused on communication will reap the benefits when play resumes.

I mentioned Zespri in my last newsletter update. Another place that had a change of decision and NZ has produced a bumper Kiwifruit crop this season. It proves that lobbying is important and many thanks to Jake who makes sure CNZ voice is heard through Sport New Zealand.

Kathie

Executive Director Update

During these uncertain times, CNZ has continued to operate in an effort to ensure that we can all continue to enjoy the sport we love as soon the Government Alert Levels allow us to.

While this has meant planning for the 2020/21 season, and all the possible variations that might come from Covid-19. It has also included a lot of work with other organisations in the sector. We are all in this together and providing ideas and experiences within the sector will ensure sport will bounce back and thrive post Covid-19.

As we move into Alert Level 3, we should be proud of how we have come together as a nation but we must not get complacent, our job isn't done yet.

Croquet New Zealand will continue to monitor how Alert Level's impact croquet and communicate this to your Associations.

Alert Level 3

Alert Level 3 is the first step back towards the realms of normality. However, as the Prime Minister has said, "it is a waiting room of sorts". It is important that we continue to follow the guidelines set by the Government to ensure all our hard work during Level 4 is rewarded.

However, as we attempt to restrict Covid-19 and continue our quest to eliminate it from New Zealand, a number of questions are raised.

Firstly, it is important to remember that while Alert Level 3 allows more businesses to resume and to move around locally, the message remains the. Stay home. Keep your bubble small. Protect your bubble.

As mentioned above, it is vital that we continue to adhere to the government guidelines which can be found on the [Covid-19 website](#) to ensure that we protect our bubbles and we can continue to move back down through the Alert Levels.

As we move down the levels, we eagerly await the opportunity to get back onto the lawns. Sport New Zealand have developed some resources (which can be found [here](#)) that help with understanding what sport and recreational activities can occur at each Alert Level. It should be noted that these documents are constantly being updated with the fluidity of information becoming available from Government.

What does this mean for croquet?

Unfortunately, a key aspect of Alert Level 3 is that we cannot share equipment with people outside of our bubbles. This means that hoops and balls (and club mallets of course) cannot be shared and therefore limits our ability to play.

While some members might have their own hoops and balls, it is up to individual clubs whether the lawns can be used. If you have your own equipment and wish to play, please contact your club to see if their lawns are open. They will also have strict guidelines in place that you will need to follow to ensure your safety, as well as anyone else who might be able to enjoy a game.

Boredom Busters

Sky Sport Next – Home Advantage

As mentioned in the Boredom Buster edition of Croquet Matters, Sky Sport Next have launched Home Advantage to help individuals continue to train during the lockdown.

A number of sports have contributed to the platform with videos to assist with developing different aspects of their sport.

Croquet's own Hamish McIntosh is contributing a series to help with the sport psychology side of sport (an aspect I am sure we can all agree is a challenge!). Learn how to master your mind [here](#).

The Kahutahuta

Doug van Belle, a member of the Wellington Municipal Croquet Club, has authored a book called The Kahutahuta.

FundABook have helped turn the book into a read along on YouTube and can be found [here](#).

Gateball Opportunities

A large Australian group attended NZ's Inaugural Gateball tournament 7 & 8 March at Palmerston North. They were of great value in showing how the game should be played.

Besides being an alternative to the activities now run within our clubs, Gateball could be a great money raiser because it is a 30-minute game, played on small lawns which can be readily set up at any site. Equipment for a game is contained in a single portable bag.

Schools would probably respond to its rapid, disciplined and highly tactical play. A Referee actively controls the game. A player may not enter the court until called and then has 10 seconds to strike his ball. An 8 second warning is given, and the Referee announces the result of each stroke, hoop made, touch, fault, out etc.

Retirement villages would probably appreciate a more leisurely approach. Business and social groups could perform at an appropriate level.

Local tournaments would help croquet players understand this game which can be enjoyed with two, three, four or five players in a team. Non-playing captains giving instructions to their teams would suit social events and inexperienced players.

In brief, the game is played on lawns marked by tapes, and uses small mallets and balls. The hoops are heavy wire loops readily pushed into a lawn of croquet green quality. The hoops are three ball-diameters wide. The 10 numbered balls are played in order and running a hoop earns the player an extra stroke, as does playing a ball onto another, called "touching". A touched ball can then be "sparked" (pictured) off the court or to some advantageous position.

Musings of a player after two days playing Gateball.



Al McGregor