



CROQUET MATTERS

DECEMBER 2020

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Message from the Chief Executive



What a year 2020 has been!

2020 has provided several challenges due to Covid-19. The impacts of the lockdown and the restrictions with the new Covid

Alert Levels system led to tournaments being cancelled, a period where clubs were unable to maintain their lawns, the development of new guidelines to help navigate our way through this period and of course, plenty of uncertainty.

The way all members of the croquet community have come together has been instrumental in helping us come through 2020 relatively unscathed.

I would like to thank everyone for their patience and support while CNZ navigated these unprecedented times.

That being said, 2020 still had plenty of highlights! Starting with the GC World Teams Championships which was held in Nelson during January 2020. The New Zealand team was able to retain the Openshaw Trophy beating Egypt in the final. What made this event even more special was that the final was broadcast live on Sky Sport Next. The final was viewed 16,658 times over the two days including 5,670 unique viewers from all around the world! A huge thank you to Greg Bryant, the New Zealand Sport Collective and Sky for making this possible, as well as all the volunteers that contributed throughout the final.

Despite the impacts of Covid-19, CNZ was able to post a reasonable surplus for 2019-20. Ensuring we are still able to support and grow the game in the years to come.

CNZ was able to host a successful 1-day AGM at which our new constitution was adopted! This constitution means there are some significant changes for CNZ including moving from an Executive to a Board and allowing independent directors. The Board is currently working through the transition process and more will be shared once it is ready.

As we look forward to 2021, there is plenty to be excited about. The year will kick off with the GC Nationals from 3rd – 10th January at the Heretaunga Croquet Club in Hawkes Bay and will be followed by the NZ Open from 23rd – 31st January in Canterbury. Not many places in the world can look forward to their national events going ahead with minimal restrictions right now!

CNZ will also be looking at our new strategic plan. As many of you may be aware, our previous strategic plan was for 2016 to 2020, however the emergence of Covid-19 meant that CNZ adopted a 1-year plan with the intention to review the strategic plan once

the impacts of Covid-19 could be fully understood. The new Strategic Plan will set CNZ's direction and strategic priorities for the next period and we will share more on this when it is ready.

I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Jake Inwood

Croquet New Zealand Tournaments

The Island AC Championships were recently completed in Nelson and South Taranaki.

The South Island AC Championships were dominated by the McCorkindale's. Brothers Logan and Reece, secured the SIAC Open Doubles title winning 4 of their 5 games. Logan then went on to win the SIAC Open Singles title, remaining undefeated during the event and going one better than his second-place finish in 2019-20. It was a local player, Marion Prentice, who secured the hotly contested 0-3.5 Singles title.

Peter Filbee and Cole Wenmoth secured the North Island AC Doubles title over Steve and Cindy Clarke. Both the Clarke's went one better in their respective singles events with Steve winning the Open Singles and Cindy winning the 0-3.5 Singles. Nicholas Flood completed his Silver Merit Award on route to securing the 4+ Singles title.

You can read the full write up [here](#).

Upcoming in January:

[Golf Croquet Nationals hosted by Hawkes Bay Croquet Associations from 3rd to 10th January 2021.](#)

[3+ Golf Croquet Championship hosted by Croquet Taranaki from 8th to 10th January 2021.](#)

[New Zealand Open Championships hosted by Canterbury Croquet Association from 23rd to 31st January 2021.](#)

Tournament Registration

Upcoming Tournaments:

23rd – 31st January 2021

[CNZ New Zealand Open Championships](#)

Entries close 7th January 2021.

To register for any of the Croquet New Zealand tournaments, click [here](#).

REMINDER: Players who are interested in being selected for any of the **CNZ Invitations** in 2020-21 are asked to register their interest by clicking here and completing the EOI.

Expressions of interest for each of the Invitations will close on the following dates.

Women's Invitation – 13th January 2021

All GC Invitations – 28th January 2021

All other AC Invitations – 1st February 2021

The players selected will be announced on the following dates.

Women's Invitation – 22nd January 2021

All GC Invitations – 14th February 2021

All other AC Invitations – 8th February 2021

Click [here](#) to register your interest.

Jenny Clarke inducted into the WCF Hall of Fame



Jenny Clarke has added another achievement to her impressive croquet resume, World Croquet Hall of Fame member.

Clarke was inducted into the WCF Hall of Fame as part of the 2020 class which also included Bob Alman (USA), Jose Alvarez-Sala (Spain), Salah Hassan (Egypt) and Chris Hudson (England).

Clarke has regularly been ranked the number 1 female player in both codes over the past 15 years. Clarke has won numerous open and women's domestic titles in New Zealand, Australia and the UK and has won several world championships including the 2012 Women's AC World Championship and both world teams' championships, the MacRobertson Shield (2014) and Openshaw Trophy (2016).

Congratulations Jenny!

For the full citation, and to read about the other inductees, click [here](#).

Club News

Croquet Mount Maunganui

Croquet Mt Maunganui has made a change to event 3 of their CMM Craigs Investment Partners Annual GC Tournament (Page 57 of the yearbook). This will now be a Level Doubles event.

Maungakaramea Junior Tournament

Wendy Schollum

What a wonderful day we had at Maungakaramea Croquet Club on Thursday 26 November.

Northland Croquet Association, in partnership with Sport Northland, ran our second annual Junior (Years 6, 7 and 8) Croquet Doubles Tournament.

NCA covers the huge area from Wellsford to Kaitaia. Distance is problematic!

This year we had 20 players from Kaitaia, Matarau, Tauraroa and Maungakaramea. (There could have been more but we only had a certain number of mallets!) They played 5 games on 4 small lawns, managing 13 hoop games with ease. Every lawn had a supervisor to support players not as familiar with the game as others. We even introduced double banking



Tauraroa Area School student intent on making the hoop.

without a hitch! And jump shots were allowed for those skilled in these!

Maungakaramea began this initiative with their small local country school bringing its senior class over to play once a week for 5 weeks. Ages ranged from 8-11 years plus their enthusiastic teacher. The first year had 16 students and this year, as the school has grown, they arrived with 24. An SOS went out to NCA, and members from near and far came to help the four Maungakaramea Golf Croquet players it has, to train the students and run the tournament.

The idea was to introduce our game early, so that by the time the students went on to Secondary School,

they would know about croquet and the Secondary Schools Competition! They also would know others that were interested in the sport.

The tournament was impressive. All teams had their scorecard showing names and lawns and moved from game to game with no difficulty at all. Clear winners emerged. **Five wins** to the composite team of Jack Reed from Kaitaia and Troy McGough from Maungakaramea. A play off was required for 2nd and 3rd (each equal on wins and points.) This in itself was an event. No advice given this time! The two teams battled it out with a knowledgeable and supportive audience. Cheers when good shots played and discussion between each other of how a shot could or should have been played. It was impressive.

The crowning moment of the day was when, an up to then non approver of trying to teach younger students to play, praised the students for their commitment, ability, sportsmanship and obvious love and knowledge of the game.

At the end of the day the children in Year 8 were discussing the Secondary Schools Tournament next March (in Kerikeri) and buddying up with partners.

This is what I call SUCCESS!!