



# CROQUET MATTERS

# APRIL 2021

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## Chief Executive



April has been a busy month for Croquet New Zealand.

The 2020-21 CNZ tournament calendar wrapped up with the GC Invitations, the end of season levy returns were due

and planning for 2021-22 is well underway.

Croquet membership grew again in 2020-21 which was our 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of growth. An increase of 0.6% from last year to now have 4,784 members is a tremendous achievement given the uncertainty at the beginning of the season. I would like to thank

everyone that is involved in making croquet happen and providing all our members, and the wider community, with the opportunity to enjoy our great sport.

Check out the rest of this month’s edition for an update on the CNZ Board and news from our community!

*Jake Inwood*

## CNZ Board Update

Following the approval of the new Constitution in October 2020, the Board established the Appointments Panel and tasked them with recruiting Croquet New Zealand’s first independent Board members.

Croquet New Zealand is excited to announce the appointment of Judith Hanratty and Rachel Batty to the Board.

During this process, Kathie Grant resigned her position on the Board. Michael Lulich (Petone-Central Croquet Club) has been seconded until the 2021 AGM.

All three members bring with them a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience and we will introduce you to them further in the coming month.

## Croquet New Zealand Tournaments

### Terminator Mallets U21 GC Championships

The Terminator Mallets U21 GC Championships were held in Nelson over Easter weekend.

It was fitting that four players originating from the region that has dominated the CNZ U21 Doubles competition since its inception (South Canterbury), celebrated their last U21 tournament by contesting the 2021 Doubles Final. It was Chris Spittal (Canterbury) and Edmund Fordyce (Canterbury) who fought back from one game down to beat Kaleb Small (Canterbury) and Logan McCorkindale (South Canterbury) 2-7, 7-6, 7-5.

Fordyce continued his dominance in the singles as he reached his fourth consecutive final and would be attempting a 3-peat. Fordyce was joined in the final by McCorkindale, the last time these two met was a 5-game thriller in the 2019-20 GC Nationals Final.

In what was an extremely close final, McCorkindale was able to replicate his success from their last meeting, winning the match 7-3, 6-7, 6-7, 7-3, 7-5.

Robbie Spooner (Wellington) won the Plate event.

Full story: [here](#).

Full scores: [here](#).

### CNZ Golf Croquet Invitations

The 2020-21 Croquet New Zealand tournament calendar wrapped up with the GC Invitations.

Unfortunately, due to a lack of numbers this year, only the top 2 invitations, the Yvonne Yeates Invitation and Duncan Dixon Invitation, were contested.

In the Yvonne Yeates Invitation, Te Kiri King (South Taranaki) was able to secure victory on his home courts after winning 8 of his 9 matches.

The Duncan Dixon Invitation followed a similar pattern with local player, John Byers (Taranaki), securing the title. In a double round robin format, Byers won 17 of his 18 games to be 5 wins clear of second place.

Full story: [here](#)

Yvonne Yeates full scores: [here](#)

Duncan Dixon full scores: [here](#)

## New AC Laws

In the February 2021 Croquet Matters, it was announced that the 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of the AC Laws had been passed.

These Laws will come into effect in New Zealand from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2021.

The Laws can be found [here](#) and an option to purchase an AC Laws book will be available during the 2021-22 Yearbook order. Please note, printing of this book will be subject to demand.

## GC Referee Exam Update

The new GC Referee exam has been completed and will now be used in all examinations for this qualification.

This is the first step in establishing the two levels of GC Referee qualifications.

Attention has now turned to writing the Senior GC Referee exam. CNZ will advise when this exam is completed.

## Club News

### Petone-Central Croquet Club Centennial



The Petone Central Croquet Club is one of Petone's oldest clubs and this year it celebrated its Centennial. The land the club house, and playing field, sit on is also of historic significance. It is the site where Europeans first settled in the Wellington region in 1840.

The Petone Central Croquet Club origins is as part of a sports hub in Udy Street which included the Petone

Tennis Club and the Petone Bowling Club. The location is near where the Petone Workingmen's Club is today. The Petone Central Croquet Club became its own club in 1921. According to the club's minutes, the relationship between the then bowling and croquet clubs was often tense, but the croquet ladies continued to make afternoon teas for the gentlemen bowlers!

The club was more of a social club in its early days. They also spent time raising funds for orphans of naval men, relief for the Napier Earthquake Relief and producing clothes for the Otaki Children's Health Camp. It was not until the 1930's that Petone Central got into competitive croquet when the club trialled inter-club games. With the shift of the Petone Working Men's Club to the Udy St site in 1982, the Council tried to find a new site for the Croquet Club. The club was sited in its current location on Tennyson St, which used to be the site of the defunct Ngaroma Croquet Club.

After 60 years men were allowed to join the all-women Petone Central Croquet Club. Among the long serving members were Merle Harding who was a playing member of the Club for over 50 years. She was the wife of Wellington Evening Post reporter Alf Harding, founder of the Empire Table Tennis Club.

The weekend of the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021 was the date the club celebrated its Centennial at its club house. The event comprised of a formal evening on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April and Croquet Games (with lunch) on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April. Patron Michael Lulich unveiled the Centennial plaque. Mayor Campbell Barry, and Club President Bruce Manuge, cut the Centennial cake. On the Saturday night some members even wore clothes, and head gear, in the style of the 1920s!

The speakers were Lower Hutt Mayor Campbell Barry, Croquet NZ CEO Jake Inwood, Hutt South MP Ginny Andersen, Patron Michael Lulich and Club President Bruce Manuge. In attendance was Deputy Mayor Tui Lewis, senior representatives from Croquet Clubs in the Wellington Region, former members and current members. The Event was organised by the Club's committee with Michael Lulich as the Event Organiser. The Club President, Bruce Manuge thanked everyone that helped organised the event. Thank-you also to Hutt City Council for their grant and Petone Pak'n'Save for its food voucher. It was a really special weekend celebrating the Centennial and a great time was had by those that attended!

## Matamata Croquet Club's turning 100

Have you been a member of the Matamata Croquet Club?

This year is our 100th year and we would like to invite you to the celebrations.

For more details, click [here](#).

## Marewa Croquet Club

Story and photos by Jayne Powis & Michael Blow



The weather in Hawkes Bay we think is always beautiful, but on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020, the heavens opened and Napier had a one in 250 years down

pour. It caused extensive flooding to the city and the Marewa Croquet Clubhouse became an island, as you can see in the photo above. Water damage and pollution was so bad that the club house had to be internally gutted. Sadly, many archived papers and photos were damaged and lost. However, in the true spirit of croquet, this did not deter the members and once the courts dried out, play resumed.

Over the last few months builders, plumbers and electricians have been hard at work. The committee has worked tirelessly with the contractors and many hours have been put in by club members, so that everything will be completed by May in time of our AGM. If you are visiting Napier, you are most welcome to visit, have a game or two and enjoy a cup of tea in our **beautiful newly refurbished club rooms**.

