



## Arthur Ross

Arthur George Francis Ross, born in Christchurch, was the third son of Edward James and Ginny Ross (nee Cox). His father was the founding Secretary of the United Tennis, Bowls and Croquet Club and was a driving force in the formation of the New Zealand Croquet Council in 1920.

He subsequently attended Christ's College in Christchurch and took up croquet in his teens, winning his first major title, the NZ Championship Doubles, in 1915 with H.A. Penn. He was also runner up to Keith Izard in the Singles Championship.

He fought in World War I where, in the latter stages, he was gassed at Ypres. His brothers were both killed in action.

During his many months of convalescence at Hanmer Springs he refined his game and evolved his distinctive and memorable style before resuming play in NZ Championships in 1920, where he again won the doubles with Penn.

Following recuperation, he became a poultry farmer and later a schoolteacher in North Canterbury, a position which also required him to drive the school bus over hazardous back country roads and from which he retired in 1951.

Despite that danger, his croquet success continued and he won the NZ Open Championship Singles 11 times, (runner-up a further 8 times), the NZ Men's title 6 times and the British Open in 1954.

In 1930 he debuted in the MacRobertson Shield World Association Croquet Team Championship, eventually representing New Zealand no less than 6 times and captained the first New Zealand team to win it in 1950.

At various times he held every office on the NZ Croquet Council (President 1928-1930, Secretary 1932-1935, Vice-President and Referee 1935-1952) and started the New Zealand Croquet Council Gazette as editor, at his own expense. He wrote "Croquet and How to Play it" which ran to no fewer than five editions and also, due to his acknowledged international authority on the Laws of the Game, the "Powers and Duties of an Umpire" in 1946.

He was actively involved in coaching around the country often finding himself battling to hold breaks together demonstrating

### Achievements:

- *WCF Hall of Fame*  
(2006)
- *CNZ Life Member*  
(1952)
- *NZ Open Champion*  
(1953, 1950, 1949, 1939, 1932, 1929, 1927, 1926, 1925, 1924, 1922)
- *NZ Open Doubles*  
(1952, 1936, 1932, 1927, 1922, 1920, 1915)
- *MacRobertson Shield Team*  
(1963, 1957, **1950**, 1941\*, 1930)
- *Men's AC Champion*  
(1953, 1952, 1949, 1948, 1937)

<p>- <i>North Island AC Champion</i> (1968, 1960, 1937, 1922, 1921)</p> <p>- <i>North Island AC Doubles</i> (1967, 1960, 1959, 1922)</p> <p>- <i>South Island AC Champion</i> (1937, 1933, 1932)</p> <p>- <i>South Island AC Doubles</i> (1956, 1933, 1932)</p> <p>Representative Matches:</p> <p>- <i>vs England</i> (1929)</p> <p><b>Other international honours:</b></p> <p>- <i>CA Open Champion</i> (1955)</p>	<p>on some oddly proportioned lawns at out of the way clubs, playing with a pipe in his mouth that he would sometimes throw to the boundary as his break became more involved. He was considered a very stylish player.</p> <p>In 1952 he was officially recognised as a leading luminary in the sport with the award of a Life Membership of the New Zealand Croquet Council</p> <p>Arthur was a wonderfully kind-hearted man. When asked late in life about his croquet record he reluctantly gave the details but said that his grandchildren were his best record when he would often read stories to them without the aid of any book.</p> <p>He died at Motueka, New Zealand in 1975.</p> <p>In 1979, the Ross family and his son-in-law, Ashley Heenan, presented the New Zealand Croquet Council with the Arthur Ross Memorial Trophy for the New Zealand National Handicap Event to encourage croquet at grass roots level, something Ross believed in passionately.</p> <p>Arthur Ross was sometimes called "The Father of the Triple Peel."</p>
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