



Charles Jones

Charles started playing croquet at the Rangimarie Croquet Club in Westport when he was nine. He was a regular competitor at the national level from the mid-seventies to early 2000.

Charles' greatest contribution to croquet was on the administration and support side. Charles was the preferred team manager for Trans-Tasman and MacRobertson Shield teams. Charles' team management skills were impressive. He was chief cook and bottle washer, mentor and organiser. NZ teams' success in the late 90s and 2000s owe a great deal to Charles' commitment and support.

Charles convened the association croquet selectors' panel for many years. He had a good eye for talent and many young players have acknowledged the important role Charles played in their development as elite players. Charles gave the same attention to encouraging and supporting recreational players.

Charles held senior leadership positions in the Wellington and Canterbury Associations and was a regular attendee at Croquet NZ AGMs. Charles was elected CNZ President in 1999 serving for four years. Charles' tenure saw the start of CNZ's moves to establish a strong national office supporting the game throughout the country.

Golf croquet was becoming popular and Charles' efforts made sure that the game became an important part of NZ croquet scene. He played a pivotal role in putting the game's administration on a more professional basis.

Charles' contribution to international croquet was not limited to managing NZ teams. He played at both golf and association world championships. He refereed and managed at a number of international events from 2002 to 2011.

Charles joined the World Croquet Federation's management committee in 2004. He was elected President of the Federation in 2010 being the second New Zealander to take this role.

Charles was awarded his QSM (Queen's Service Medal) for public services. It could equally have been awarded for services to the community.

The NZ Open Encouragement Salver is named in his honour.

Achievements:

- *Copper Tray Invitation*
(1986, 1976)
- *South Island AC Doubles*
(1988, 1987)

Representative Matches:

- *vs Great Britain* (1979)

Managerial Achievements:

- *MacRobertson Shield Team Manager*
(2010, 2006, 2003, 2000)
- *Trans-Tasman Team Manager*
(**2009, 2006, 2004, 2002, 1996**)