



**Bob Jackson**

Robert Vernon Jackson only started playing in 1971 when he was in his mid-30s, and competed in both Association and Golf Croquet right into the late 2010s. Between 1979 and 1986 he was one of the world's best players and known as an especially good match player. He was most recently a member of the Howick Croquet Club in Auckland.

Bob Jackson has the most New Zealand titles as a 14-time national singles champion in Association Croquet, with the first in 1975 and last in 2003. Highlights of these include two three-peels in 1982-84 and 1997-99. He won the NZ doubles title 10 times.

Since adding GC to his playing schedule, Jackson became the Nationals singles and doubles champion three times each.

On the international stage, he was a doubles World Champion with Joseph Hogan at the 1989 tournament held in England, and came third in the singles at Rhode Island, United States, in 1992.

Widely renowned as one of the best players in the world in the late 1970s and 1980s, he was the first to perform an extremely rare move called an octuple peel in competitive play, and did it twice in consecutive matches.

He was inducted into the World Croquet Federation Hall of Fame in 2008, with the inscription:

*"Jackson developed a style of play which revolved around his strength at single ball shots which he hit with considerable power and accuracy. His example encouraged others to take a more aggressive approach by shooting rather than finessing to gain the innings."*

Bob was a true exponent of the 80/20 rule – it is not what you will achieve if you hit, what you might give away if you miss. He often stood for some time looking at the balls before continuing play. This was his time of calculating the odds.

As if his feats in croquet weren't enough, he was also a former New Zealand table tennis champion.

**Achievements:**

- NZ Open Champion  
(2003, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1995, 1992, 1991, 1989, 1984, 1983, 1982, 1979, 1978, 1975)
- NZ Open Doubles  
(1990, 1988, 1987, 1986, 1985, 1982, 1981, 1980, 1979, 1973)
- GC Nationals Champion  
(2006, 2005, 2004)
- GC Nationals Doubles  
(2009, 2006, 2004)
- MacRobertson Shield Team  
(2000, 1993, 1990, **1986**, **1979**, 1974)
- Trans-Tasman Team  
(**2004**, **2001**, **1999**)
- AC World Bronze Medal  
(1993)
- Don Reyland Stars Champion  
(2007)

- *Men's AC Champion*  
(2006, 2004, 2001, 2000, 1997,  
1995, 1993, 1988, 1987, 1986,  
1985, 1979, 1977)

- *AC Mixed Doubles*  
(1990, 1988)

- *Silver Tray Invitation*  
(2005, 2002, 2011, 1995, 1993,  
1992, 1990, 1980, 1977, 1976,  
1973)

- *Yvonne Yeats GC Invitation*  
(2007)

- *North Island AC Champion*  
(2008, 2005, 2002, 2001, 2000,  
1998, 1997, 1996, 1995, 1994,  
1989, 1988, 1986, 1984, 1979,  
1978, 1976)

- *North Island AC Doubles*  
(2008, 2007, 2005, 2004, 2001,  
1999, 1989, 1977, 1976)

- *North Island GC Champion*  
(2010, 2008)

- *South Island GC Champion*  
(2005)

Representative Matches:

- *vs England* (1986)

- *vs Scotland* (1974)

**Other international honours:**

- *Australian Open Champion*  
(1997, 1987)

- *Australian Men's Champion*  
(1987)

- *CA Open Doubles*  
(1990)

Bob competed in the two World Croquet Federation Golf Croquet Championships held in New Zealand in 2006 and 2015. He made the quarter-finals in Hawke's Bay in 2006.

He was one of 18 Kiwis nominated to compete in 2015 by Croquet New Zealand, based on his national ranking of 11.

Bob also manufactured good inexpensive mallets for over two decades, and supported the game by being one of the most prolific tournament entrants in the Southern hemisphere.

Bob passed away in January 2023. He will be remembered for his calm unflappable demeanour, laconic style and dry sense of humour.