



CROQUET MATTERS

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Chief Executive

Welcome to our first edition of Croquet Matters of 2023. I hope you all had a relaxing break filled with family and croquet.

We saw a fantastic start to the year with the Women’s AC World Championship held in Christchurch. The Canterbury Croquet Association, and the United, St James Park

and Cashmere Croquet Clubs put on an incredible tournament. If you were not able to watch any play, our live stream is still available on YouTube with details available below.

And next week we will have 32 players meeting in the Bay of Plenty to compete in the Under 21 GC World Championship. New Zealand will be represented by 17 young talented players including the newly crowned GC Nationals Champion Levi Franks. We will again be providing a live stream on Whakaata Māori during the last two days of the event.

I am also pleased to advise that Anyes Dupré has joined CNZ as Office Administrator. Anyes will be managing the CNZ office and support our members. Please join me in welcoming Anyes to the team.

Unfortunately, there has also been some sad news with the passing of Bob Jackson, one of the finest croquet players to ever play the game. He will be missed.

Stefan Horrler

CNZ Tournaments

Men & Women’s Championship Results

This season’s championship was held at Waimarie Hutt Valley CC from 7-11 December.

Mixed Doubles: **Alison Robinson** (Wellington) & **Doug van Belle** (Manawatu-Wanganui)

Women’s Champion: **Miranda Chapman** (Thames Valley)

Men’s Champion: **Harps Tahurangi** (Wellington)

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

GC Nationals Results

The CNZ National GC Tournament was held from 16-21 January at Heretaunga CC in Havelock North.

Doubles Winners: **James Duggan & Levi Franks** (Canterbury)

Singles Winner: **Levi Franks**

Franks becomes only the 6th player in history to complete the double in the event.

You can read the full report for this and the GC 3+ [here](#).

GC 3+ Results

The 3+ Championship was held at Levin CC from 20-22 January.

Don Walls (South Taranaki) beat Ian Poole (Hawke's Bay) in the final for his first CNZ title.

The Manawatū Standard's full report on the event can be found [here](#).

NZ Open

The New Zealand Open, our premier AC event, will be held in Paraparaumu, Waikanae and Pimmerton from 18-25 February.

AC Invitations EOI

A reminder that expressions of interest for this year's Invitations must be made by **Thursday 9 February**.

The three events will take place at Epsom Remuera CC, Orewa CC and Rose Gardens CC in late March.

You can register interest [here](#).

Arthur Ross Entries

A reminder to Associations to submit entries for the Arthur Ross Handicap Singles to CNZ by **Thursday 23 February**.

The finals will take place from 10-12 March at Pukekohe CC.

Bob Jackson

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Robert Vernon 'Bob' Jackson. Bob passed away peacefully on the morning of Sunday 22 January at the age of 91.

Bob's achievements in the sport extend for over 50 years, including two decades in which he was considered the best in the world. His extensive roll of honour can be found in his CNZ Hall of Fame entry [here](#).

Our thoughts are with Bob's family, and he will be sorely missed.

Inclusion Project

College Sport Wellington

CNZ in conjunction with College Sport Wellington, hosted students from four schools in an introduction to the sport on 1 December at Waimarie Hutt Valley CC.

Special-needs groups from Heretaunga College, Wainuiomata High School, Upper Hutt College and Wellington High School each attended a one hour session which included playing short GC matches.

College Sport will now host an annual croquet tournament for its Athletes with Disabilities Programme.

World Croquet Federation

Two New Zealanders Inducted into HoF



Congratulations to Geoff Young and Joe Hogan, who were inducted into the WCF Hall of Fame at the start of December.

Their significant contributions to the sport have now been recognised on a global scale.

Women's AC World Championships



Debbie Lines of England beat compatriot Gabrielle Higgins in the final at United CC in Christchurch on 14 January.

New Zealand's Jenny Clarke was beaten in the semi final by eventual winner Debbie Lines after an excellent knock-out run. Miranda Chapman beat Alison Robinson in the shield final, while Cindy Clarke won the bowl final.

Congratulations to all of our competitors and to the tournament organisers for hosting a world class event.

The last four days were streamed through the Whakaata Māori YouTube channel. You can watch replays of the knockouts [here](#).

U21 GC World Championships

Croquet Mount Maunganui and Tauranga CC will host young players from around the world from 8-12 February.

17 of the of the 32 players are from New Zealand. Good luck to all of our players!

Live streaming will be available over the weekend. Check our Facebook page for links in the coming days.

AC WC Ranking Places

Congratulations to Jenny Clarke and Logan McCorkindale who were both awarded ranking selections for the AC World Championships taking place in London in July.

The full list of ranking and wild card places can be found [here](#).

Women's GC Ranking Places

Three New Zealanders have been awarded ranking and wildcard places for the Women's GC World Championship in August in England.

Congratulations to Jenny Clarke who received one of the 18 ranking places, and to Jessica Bullen and Ellie Ross who were both awarded wild card entries.

The full list of ranking and wild card places can be found [here](#).

Club News

Merit Award Winners



Congratulations to Max Charlton (Manawatu-Wanganui) and Bob McKenzie (Wellington) who recently achieved silver and bronze merit awards respectively.

Max made a 12 point break without using any bisques during an interclub match, while Bob made a 10 point break in the Waikanae AC 4+ Open Tournament.

M-W Champion of Champions

The Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui GC Champion of Champions Competition was reactivated this season after a 2-year hiatus and held on 15 January at Rose Gardens.

The representatives were Gordon Piets (Feilding), Neville Laphorne (Levin), Ian Power (Rangatira) and Josh Smith (Rose Gardens) The format was a double round robin competition of 13-point games.

Neville and Josh both won 4 of their 6 games, but on a decision of net points (+5 to +4), this year's champion was Josh Smith.

If you or your club has any unique news that you would like to see in *Croquet Matters*, please send your articles and photos to us [here](#).