



CROQUET MATTERS

December 2024

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Chief Executive

Welcome to our Christmas newsletter!

Unfortunately we have to report some sad news with the passing of CNZ Life Member Geoff Young.

Geoff was a wonderful contributor to croquet at all levels and will be sorely missed.

The last couple of months have been incredibly busy both from a playing perspective as well as operationally. We held four CNZ Tournaments since the last edition and we have some changes and updates on Laws qualifications to report on.

The newsletter also includes some updates from clubs around the country, sharing their celebrations or tournaments news.

I would also like to take the opportunity to wish you all happy holidays. I hope you find time to spend with family and friends and to relax.

Enjoy!

Stefan Horrer

Geoff Young

It is with great sadness that we [advise](#) that CNZ Life Member Geoff Young passed away on 21 December 2024.



WCF Secretary General Debbie Lines presenting Geoff with his WCF Hall of Fame Certificate.

Our thoughts are with Geoff's wife Phyllis, daughter Dallas and granddaughter Ashley and their families.

CNZ Tournaments

The CNZ tournament calendar can be found [here](#). Registrations are open on the portal.

Women's AC Invitation

The Women's AC Invitation was held on 16/17 November at the Masterton Croquet Club. Six players competed on difficult and heavy lawns with **Pip Rive** (Auckland) winning the final against **Bonnie Johnstone** (South Taranaki).

Full report [here](#).

The event was livestreamed with fixed cameras and no commentary and can be watched on the [CNZ YouTube Channel](#).

GC Invitations

The GC Invitations were held across three clubs in New Plymouth and Hawera on 22-24 November and saw **Paul Kaiser** (Canterbury) win the Top GC Invitation, **Ricardo Pintor** (South Taranaki) win the Second GC Invitation and **Geoff Price** (Canterbury) win the Third GC Invitation.

Full report [here](#).

South Island AC Championships

The South Island AC Championships were held at United Croquet Club in Christchurch on 4-8 December. **Josh Freeth** (Auckland) won his first South Island AC Singles Title.

The Doubles Title was won by **Jenny and Chris Clarke** (Canterbury).

Full report [here](#).

Terminator Mallets U21 GC Championships

The U21 GC Championships were held on 11-15 December at the Rose Gardens Croquet Club in Palmerston North.

Levi Franks (Canterbury) won his third consecutive Singles Title while siblings **Jessica and Nathan Bullen** (Wellington) won the Doubles.

Full report [here](#).

Upcoming Tournaments

Both the **CNZ GC Open** as well as the **CNZ AC Open** will be held in January, with Nelson Hinemoa Croquet Club hosting the GC event on 6-11 January while Croquet Mount Maunganui and Tauranga Croquet Club will welcome the AC players between 17 and 24 January.

The **GC 3+ Championship** will be hosted by Marlborough and the Brooklyn Croquet Club on 31 January to 2 February.

World Croquet Federation

GC Advantage

The WCF recently released an updated table with Starting Scores for Advantage GC. Please note that the **new table will not be adopted** in New Zealand this season, therefore please continue to use the table published in the CNZ Yearbook.

Under 21 GC World Championship

As mentioned in our last newsletter **Levi Franks** received a Ranking Place for the Under 21 GC World Championship to be held in Sarasota, Florida in April 2025. Since then four more New Zealand players have been awarded places in the event. **Jessica Bullen** and **Callum McKinnon** (both Wellington) were awarded Member Places, while **Mattie Clarkson** (Counties Manukau) and **Luke Francis** (Manawatu-Wanganui) received Replacement Ranking Places. Good luck!

Full report [here](#).

2025 AC World Championship

Expressions of interest for the 2025 AC World Championship are now open. If you would like to put your name forward please email croquet@croquet.org.nz.

WCF Hall of Fame

The latest inductee to the WCF Hall of Fame is Ian BurrIDGE (Wales). Details can be found [here](#).

WCF Management Committee

Jim Nicholls (Australia) has been elected to fill the vacancy on the WCF Management Committee following the resignation of Samir Patel (England). The announcement can be found [here](#).

CNZ Operational Matters

Referee in Charge

To provide clarity on when a Referee in Charge can be appointed the CNZ Laws Committee have proposed and the CNZ Board have approved a new Referee Regulation. Link to the new regulation can be found [here](#).

GC Umpire Qualification

With the GC Rules becoming more comprehensive and complex over the years the CNZ Laws Committee has considered the introduction of a new GC Umpire Qualification. The new qualification, which will focus on some key GC Rules rather than all the Rules, was proposed to the Board and was approved at the December Board meeting. The Laws Committee will now work on finalising the training and exam material for this new qualification before its launch next year. This new qualification will hopefully introduce a wider group of our members to laws qualifications and help counter the decline in number of qualifications.

Association & Club News

Morrinsville Open

The Morrinsville Croquet Club hosted its AC Open Tournament on 9-10 November and saw once again some of New Zealand's top AC players in action. The event was won by Paddy Chapman (Thames Valley) on countback.

The full article can be found [here](#).

Leith Croquet Club Centenary

The Leith Croquet Club in Dunedin turned 100 recently with club members celebrating the event with a function at the club.

The full article can be read [here](#).

Te Aroha District Schools Competition

The Te Aroha Croquet Club hosted the 4th Te Aroha District Schools GC Tournament in late November with 40 students competing.

The full article can be found [here](#).

Whangarei CC Advantage GC Doubles

The Whangarei Croquet Club recently hosted the Rose Bowl, an Advantage GC Doubles Tournament. Please find the full article [here](#).

We would love to hear from you! Has your club got a great story they would like to share with our croquet community? Please send your articles and photos to us [here](#).

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