



CROQUET MATTERS

Autumn 2025

Contents

Chief Executive	1
CNZ Tournaments	2
Don Reyland Memorial Stars Event	2
AC Invitation Events	2
Arthur Ross Memorial Event	2
National Handicap Finals Winners	2
World Croquet Federation.....	2
Under 21 GC World Championship	2
U21 GC World Players on RNZ.....	3
2025 AC World Championship.....	3
2025 MacRobertson Shield Squad Announcement	3
CNZ Operational Matters.....	3
5,000 Members!.....	3
GC Umpire Qualification.....	4
2024-25 Season	4
Associations Re-registration	4
Association & Club News	4
Parafed Taranaki.....	4
Neville Sandiford on RNZ.....	4
Rose Gardens Bupa GC Tournament	5
Croquet Family Wins Big.....	5

Chief Executive

Welcome to the last newsletter of the 2024-25 croquet season!

New Zealand saw a very successful croquet season with participation numbers in CNZ tournaments up for both AC and GC.

While our Openshaw team was not able to defend the title won in 2020, there was plenty to cheer about this season.

Some of the highlights of the season were our youngest ever winner in the Don Reyland Stars in Katie Zentveld, Jenny Clarke becoming the first female winner of the AC Open in almost 60 years and Rose Gardens Croquet Club becoming the first club to claim both the Don Reyland Stars and the Arthur Ross winners in the same season.

But the best was saved for last. At the U21 GC World Championship Levi Franks was crowned the new World Champion, becoming the fifth New Zealand player to win this event in only its seventh edition. Congratulations Levi!

Off the lawns we have also made great progress with clubs re-registering under the new Incorporated Societies Act and our associations working on their re-registrations at the moment.

Thank you all for this great season of croquet marked by many individual and collective achievements. We look forward to seeing you all on the lawns next season!

Stefan Horrer

CNZ Tournaments

Don Reyland Memorial Stars Event

The national GC handicap final was held in Matamata, Waikato-King Country from 7-9 March.

Katie Zentveld (Manawatu-Wanganui) secured the win of the Don Reyland Memorial Stars and her first national title in only her second CNZ tournament. At only 13 years of age Katie is our youngest ever winner of the Don Reyland Memorial Stars. Congratulations Katie!



Full report [here](#).

AC Invitation Events

The Top and Second AC Invitation events were held in Wellington from 15-19 March, while the Third AC Invitation took place on 14-16 March in Southland.

Top AC Invitation winner:

Logan McCorkindale (Canterbury)

Second AC Invitation winner:

Chris Shilling (Otago)

Third AC Invitation winner:

Carey Johnstone (Taranaki)

Full report [here](#).

Arthur Ross Memorial Event

The national AC handicap final, the Arthur Ross Memorial Event, was held in Mount Maunganui, Bay of Plenty on 28 to 30 March.

Winner: **Nicholas Flood** (Manawatu-Wanganui)

Runner up: **Simon Dell** (Counties Manukau)



Photo: Nicholas (right) & Simon (left)

Full report [here](#).

National Handicap Finals Winners

This is the first time that both winners of the CNZ national handicap finals, the Arthur Ross and the Don Reyland Stars Memorial Events, are won by two players from the same club. Both Nicholas Flood and Katie Zentveld play for **Rose Gardens Croquet Club** in Palmerston North. Well done!

World Croquet Federation

Under 21 GC World Championship

The 2025 U21 GC World Championship was held at the Sarasota County Croquet Club in Florida, USA on 14-18 April 2025, with five New Zealanders competing.

All five New Zealanders reached the knockout stage after finishing at least third in their respective blocks. This is an incredible result having all five players in the final 16. Congratulations to all our players for this achievement!



Photo: NZ Team with Luke Francis, Jessica Bullen, Levi Franks, Mattie Clarkson and Callum McKinnon

Levi Franks (Canterbury), after gaining valuable experience at the Openshaw Shield in February, went on to reach the final and win his first World Championship title in convincing fashion.

This was the 7th edition of the U21 GC World Championship and saw Levi become the 5th New Zealander to win this event.



Photo: Levi Franks

Full report [here](#).

U21 GC World Players on RNZ

Our talented young players talked to RNZ, while at the World Championship in Florida, to share their love for the sport. Their passion and dedication are a lovely testament to the power of croquet to bring people together, to create lasting connections and opportunities to grow and develop skills.



Photo: NZ Team with Callum McKinnon, Luke Francis, Mattie Clarkson, Jessica Bullen, Levi Franks and Michael Albert (USCA)

Read the full article [here](#).

Listen to the radio programme [here](#).

2025 AC World Championship

The 2025 AC World Championship will be held at the National Croquet Center in West Palm Beach, Florida, USA on 18-26 October 2025. **John Versey** (Hawkes Bay) and **Jarrold Coutts** (South Canterbury) have been awarded the two CNZ Member Places, joining **Jenny Clarke** and **Logan MacCorkindale** (both Canterbury) who were awarded Ranking Places last month. Congratulations to all players!

2025 MacRobertson Shield Squad Announcement

CNZ and the AC Selection Committee are pleased to announce the initial Squad for the 2026 AC World Team Championship, the MacRobertson Shield, held 24 July to 9 August 2026 in England.

The selected players are **Greg Bryant, Paddy Chapman, Jenny Clarke, Edmund Fordyce, Josh Freeth, Logan McCorkindale, Chris Shilling, Felix Webby, Aaron Westerby**. The final selection of 6 players is expected in February 2026. **Jarrold Coutts** has been selected as non-playing Captain and has been appointed as manager of the team.

Find the official announcement [here](#).

Facebook announcement [here](#).

CNZ Operational Matters

5,000 Members!

CNZ is pleased to announce that it has reached a milestone of 5,000 members this season, a significant achievement not seen in decades. CNZ would like to thank the countless club and association volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make this milestone possible. Your dedication and passion for the sport is truly appreciated.

GC Umpire Qualification

Six players have qualified as GC Umpire in only two months, and more are already booked in for their exams in the month to come.

Congratulations to our new Umpires and thank you for your willingness to take on more responsibilities to support the croquet community.

2024-25 Season

The planning period for next season has now started. So, keep an eye out for an email from your club regarding ordering the **2024-25 Yearbook** and other CNZ publications.

It is also a time to start thinking about the **awards nominations** to recognise and celebrate the dedication and hard work of our volunteers and players. If you have anyone in mind, watch out for the forms and announcement that will be published in May on our website.

Associations Re-registration

Associations are working towards re-registering under the new Incorporated Societies Act with new constitutions to be approved at General Meetings in the next few months. The new governance structure will also see some of the smaller associations joining forces to form larger associations and all associations involved working to have the amalgamations completed over the next few months.

Association & Club News

Parafed Taranaki

On 1 February, Tasman Croquet Club in New Plymouth hosted around 18-20 members and supporters of Parafed Taranaki.

It was a wonderful event for people with various disabilities wanting to 'have a go' at croquet.

Such events are essential in keeping croquet accessible to all and to strengthen our communities. CNZ wishes to thank the Tasman Croquet Club for making this possible.



Full report [here](#).

Neville Sandiford on RNZ

Neville Sandiford from the Paraparaumu Croquet Club, who at age 101 still regularly plays croquet, recently spoke to Nathan Rarere on RNZ's First Up programme.



Photo: Neville celebrating his 100th birthday at Paraparaumu CC in 2024

Read the full article [here](#).

Listen to the radio programme [here](#).

Rose Gardens Bupa GC Tournament

The Rose Gardens Croquet Club held the Bupa GC Tournament on 8-9 March. It was a very successful event with players coming from all over the lower North Island.



Photo: Andre Murray during the final

Full report [here](#).

Croquet Family Wins Big

Over the years New Zealand has seen its fair share of families playing croquet together, and there is a new addition to that list. Four members of the Zentveld family from the Rose Gardens Croquet Club in Palmerston North recently competed at the annual GC tournament in Wanganui.

And not only did they compete, they walked away with three wins in the singles events. Father Mark won the Level Singles B category (HC 2-5), daughter Katie won the Level Singles C category (HC 6-9) and mother Susan finished on top in the Level Singles D category (HC 10 to 14).

In the advantage doubles daughter Emily finished second in the top group playing alongside Luke Francis. Katie and partner Jayda Sharp from Hawera won the Advantage Doubles B group with parents Mark and Susan finishing second.

Congratulations to the Zentveld family!

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](#).

Our Partners

Croquet New Zealand is supported by the following Partners

