



Croquet Matters

April 2013

Croquet Matters – back & better!

Croquet NZ welcomes the return of Croquet Matters – the monthly newsletter for croquet in New Zealand. The newsletter has new sections which will be a regular feature – From the Exec, Coaches' Corner, Regional Development, Tournament Round-Up, Coming Events, and will contain special reports and features which change from month to month.

From the Exec

The beginning of April saw a very productive weekend where the Tournament Committee met to review the 2012-13 season and put the finishing touches on the tournament calendar for next season. This will be released to associations very soon.

The 2012-2013 season had a number of highlights which we celebrate as we look towards the new season with anticipation:

- The appointment of Greg Bryant as Sport Development Officer
- The successful hosting of the Centenary of the New Zealand AC Open Championships in Christchurch
- CNZ nationwide coaching programme (see article on "Roadies" later in the newsletter) saw 680 players attend coaching sessions

- Inaugural Women's World Championship (Charles Jones trophy) won by New Zealander Jenny Clarke
- 2nd place finish by New Zealand team in the GC World Team Championships

The 2013 Annual General Meeting of Croquet New Zealand will be held on 12th -13th October. An Awards dinner will be held on the evening of the 12th October.

We thought we'd give you a little taste of what is discussed at Executive meetings. Meetings are normally held in late November/early December, end of March, mid May, mid July and a short meeting on the Friday prior to the AGM in October.

The first meeting (late Nov/early Dec) focuses on confirming the volunteer personnel to be on each committee. Each committee has a convenor who is on the Executive. This meeting also does a review of the Executive's performance over the last 12 months, and welcomes any new Executive members.

The committees are:

- a. Finance Audit and Risk (FAR),
- b. Player Development (including selection panels, coaching etc)
- c. Organisation Development (focussing on community sport outcomes)
- d. Tournament Committee
- e. Laws Committee

The late March meeting focuses on a review of the tournament season (the tournament committee normally meets prior to this for its own review), and a review of the strategic plan - making amendments where necessary, noting achievements, and adding new goals.

The mid May meeting is where the budget for the following year is agreed. All committee convenors are asked to put proposals for any additional projects at this time. A business plan (those items from the strategic plan that you want to achieve in the next 12 months) is also agreed. Hopefully this is an easy process as we know from the strategic plan what we want to achieve over a 3-5yr time period, and we can identify those things that we want to achieve over the next 12 months and can quantify what funding will be needed.

The mid July meeting focuses on the upcoming AGM. Most of the remits and recommendations are in at this stage so the Executive discusses these and comes to agreement on the response from the Executive. Also discussed are the speakers at the dinner, and the topics for discussion on the Sunday. The Friday before the AGM meeting is a chance for final AGM preparations (including choosing the award winners).

After the budget is approved in May, it is broken down into a cashflow statement highlighting which months the big cash inflows and outflows happen. During the week prior to each Executive meeting, a FAR meeting is held by Skype. At these meetings the actual financial position is compared to what we expect from the cashflow statement. The committee also reviews the bank statements, and discusses any financial issues that are raised.

Tournament Round-Up

Centenary New Zealand Open Championship
Congratulations to Toby Garrison who topped off a fantastic year winning the 100th New Zealand Open Singles Championship before proving it was no fluke and taking out the top NZ Invitation, the Silver Tray.

The Doubles event was won by Michael Wright (Wellington) and Mark Avery (UK), and the Heenan Plate saw inaugural world champion Joe Hogan (Gisborne) defeat Tournament Referee Graeme Roberts (Wellington).

Congratulations to the Canterbury Croquet Association for hosting an excellent event.

In 2014 the New Zealand Open returns to Wellington.

New Zealand Golf Croquet Championship
Duncan Dixon delivered another powerful performance in winning the 2012-13 New Zealand Golf Croquet Singles Championship at the Epsom-Remeura Croquet Club. This is Duncan's 5th New Zealand Singles title, making him the most successful player ever in this event. The event featured several international competitors, though the silverware remained in New Zealand with Duncan pairing up with brother Andrew to win the Doubles trophies. The Limited event (for players of handicap 4+) was won by youngster Hemi McLaren.

Duncan continued to dominate the NZ golf croquet scene by winning the Yvonne Yeates top invitation in February this year.

Arthur Ross Memorial Finals

14 competitors represented regions from around the country in the Arthur Ross Memorial Finals (handicap Association Croquet) at the Waikanae Croquet Club in March this year.

This year minus players dominated play, despite giving away substantial numbers of bisques to some opponents, and the final saw Kit Jackson (Auckland, -2) taking the beautiful trophy in a 26-17 win over Dennis Bulloch (Nelson, -3.5).

Trans Tasman test series 2013

Australia convincingly won the 2013 Trans Tasman test series. New Zealand had many positives, however, with the international team debuts of David Wickham, Harps Tahurangi, Alison Robinson, Laura Whittaker, and the very welcome return of Jane McIntyre.

The team gained valuable experience and built on strong performances in individual tournaments before selection. Highlights of the event included Aaron Westerby and Laura Whittaker defeating the top Australian pair of Robbie Fletcher and Rosie Landrebe.

The next Trans Tasman test series will be held in New Zealand in 2015 and will be the first Golf Croquet Trans Tasman. New Zealand are expected to be strong favourites after the performance of our men in the 2012 World Golf Croquet Teams and Open championships and of our women in the Women's Golf Croquet World Championships in 2011.

Development for the event will be led by player development coordinator Phillip Drew.

2013 NZ Secondary Schools Competition

This year's competition was hosted by the Rose Gardens croquet club in Palmerston North, ably managed by John Wall, and competed for by 20 teams. The event was won by Ashburton College.

Watch this space for information of further youth croquet development initiatives including new regional school-age workshops.

10th Golf Croquet World Championships



The 2013 WCF Golf Croquet World Championships are being held in Cairo, Egypt from 21st-28th April.

Three young New Zealanders (Jasmine Rule and Oscar Baird-Gosling from South Canterbury, Lachlan Hughes from Wanganui) competed in the U21 Qualifying Tournament, also in Cairo. Lachy was the top kiwi performer winning 6 matches. Egyptians Moustafa Nezar (current U21 World Champion) and Ahmed Usama took the two qualifying places.

New kiwi convert Chris Clarke competed in the main qualifying tournament which was packed with Egyptians. He qualified into the main draw, won his block and made it through to the Quarterfinal.

The main event started on 21 April. New Zealand are represented by World #4 Duncan Dixon (Canterbury), Mike Crashley (Gisborne), Sabri Mullaaliu (Auckland) and Steve Piercy (Bay of Plenty). Duncan also made it to the quarterfinals where he was beaten by one of the eventual finalists.

Coming tournaments:

NZ MacRobertson Shield Team Announced

The New Zealand team to contest the 2014 MacRobertson Shield has been announced and is:

Aaron Westerby (Auckland, captain)
Greg Bryant (Wellington)
Paddy Chapman (Canterbury/UK)
Chris Clarke (Canterbury)
Jenny Clarke (Canterbury)
Toby Garrison (Wellington)

Joint reserves:

Paul Skinley (Wellington)
Michael Wright (Wellington)

Manager: Jarrod Coutts (Canterbury)

Congratulations to all in the team, and welcome to Chris Clarke who makes his New Zealand test debut. This kiwi team is arguably the strongest NZ have fielded since 1986 and will provide a very strong challenge for the top tier of the WCF Association Croquet World Team Championships.

The MacRobertson Shield NZ tour

Mon 30th Dec 2013 to Fri 3rd Jan 2014
NZ vs USA, Eng v Aust (United, Canterbury)

Sun 5th Jan 2014 to Thurs 9th Jan 2014
Eng vs USA (Te Mata, Hawkes Bay),
NZ v Aust (Marewa, Hawkes Bay)

Sat 11th Jan 2014 to Wed 15th Jan 2014
NZ vs Eng, Aust v USA (Mt Maunganui, BOP)

Come along and support the Black Mallets!



The MacRobertson Shield. Last won by New Zealand in 1986. (New Zealand's winning team comprised: Graham Beale, Joe Hogan, Bob Jackson, Roger Murfitt, John Prince, Ashley Heenan)

Odds and Ends

Croquetscores.com - check it out!

Australian Tim Murphy has created the new Gold Standard in croquet reporting with his site croquetscores.com. Croquetscores provides a place for up-to-the-minute game-by-game reporting of results from croquet tournaments at all levels. It is very easy to use, with help information and a practise section, and has been used by players and managers all over the world to report results from the NZ Centenary Open in Canterbury to the NZ Secondary Schools Playoffs in Palmerston North. The site is also being used to report results from the Golf Croquet World Championships.

Croquet New Zealand will be looking to use croquetscores.com for reporting of results for major tournaments in New Zealand next season and beyond.

Sport Development



CNZ's new Sport Development Officer Greg Bryant coaching in South Canterbury (source: stuff.co.nz)

After 30 years near the top of New Zealand Croquet, Greg Bryant is a familiar name on the International croquet circuit. A regular in the New Zealand MacRobertson Shield team and in the top 10 of the World Rankings, Greg won the 2011 and 2012 New Zealand Open Championship, the 2012 Top 8 Invitation (the Silver Tray).

An excellent coach, Greg led the 2012 MAGAK coaching event, then took on the role as **Croquet New Zealand Sport Development Officer** in November.

Since taking on this role in the National Office, Greg has:

- led the CNZ coaching road trips;
- represented CNZ at the NZ Secondary Schools Finals;
- discussed initiatives with several regions to enhance youth play;
- facilitated negotiations between clubs and local councils around the country;

- provided advice to several clubs regarding possible "sportsville" options;
- developed the Tier system for national tournaments (see next month's Croquet Matters for details); and
- taken over coaching of the new "Junior Youth Squad" supporting promising young players around New Zealand (including our three players in Cairo).

Greg is currently collating responses from an extensive questionnaire distributed to all NZ clubs in order to continue to provide support to regional associations. Greg will contribute a regular column to Croquet Matters from the next issue.

Feedback from the "roadies"

In the 2012-13 croquet season, Sport Development Officer Greg Bryant and assistants Jarrod Coutts and Josh Smith conducted a regional coaching programme. They visited 17 venues between Whangarei and Dunedin, presented 19 GC sessions and 17 AC sessions to 680 participants (17% of all players affiliated to CNZ).

Some of the excellent feedback from attendees includes:

"Having two excellent coaches enabled the wide range of abilities present in the participants to all be catered for"

"Very well planned to accommodate Golf and Association Croquet"

"Everyone went away remarking on how much they had learnt and had obviously been enthused about the game again."

"Greg's description of how to approach and strike a ball was excellent"

“There was general high appreciation of the programme’s inclusion of the psychological components of play”

“Fantastic coaching session from Greg and Jarrod”

“We congratulate Croquet New Zealand for sponsoring this programme and for recognising the priority it deserves”

Players who have attended these sessions continue to provide positive feedback to their associations on their experiences.

It was evident throughout the coaching sessions that there is a variety of approaches being coached around New Zealand. Greg Bryant (as Sport Development Officer) in conjunction with Jenny Clarke (who is a lecturer in the School of Sport and Physical Education at the University of Canterbury) are preparing a new framework for coaching coaches. This will be tied into the CNZ merit award structure.

Coming events...

This section will profile selected upcoming events for NZ croquet players to participate in, or follow our top players in.

The 2013 WFC Association Croquet World Championships, London, August 10-18th

New Zealand selections for the 14th Association Croquet World Championships are:

Paddy Chapman	Jenny Clarke
Steve Jones	Aiken Hakes
Dennis Bulloch	Harps Tahurangi
Mike Crashley	Peter Filbee
Brian Bullen	

The event will be hosted by the Surbiton Croquet club, and played at several London clubs. The defending world champion is Reg Bamford. Australian World #1 Robert Fletcher was 2012 Silver Medallist.

CNZ Merit Awards

Merit Award achievement standards are acknowledged by the presentation of badges to qualifying players. These awards give players goals to mark their progress as they develop their Association Croquet skills.

The award standards are:

Bronze: Awarded for the first occasion in a tournament that a player completes a break of 10 hoops or more, with or without bisques.

Silver: Awarded for the first occasion in a tournament that a player makes a break of 12 hoops or more, without bisques.

Gold: Awarded for a triple peel

Platinum: Awarded for a sextuple peel

Conditions.

1. The awards are only available for singles games, played on full-sized lawns, where the player is victorious.
2. Silver and Gold awards cannot be claimed if bisques were used to set up or play the award-winning break or to tidy up any leave.
3. The awards can be achieved in handicap games.
4. Each award can be won once, and a lower award cannot be claimed after first claiming a more advanced award.

It is the responsibility of a player to be aware if he/she has made the requisite standard. However, tournament managers should know the criteria and ensure players are made aware if they have achieved an award during a tournament.

Merit Award badges can be claimed by application to Croquet New Zealand.

Next Edition of Croquet Matters

1. CNZ's Sport Development Officer's new column
2. Coach of the Year - a new CNZ award
3. Coaching tips - improve your shooting and hoop-running
4. **New** Coaching for Coaches info!

We welcome your news!

Please send in your match reports, letters to Croquet Matters and other information which may be published in future editions of the Croquet Matters newsletter. We also welcome suggestions for articles and contributions.

Croquet Matters was prepared by the Executive Director and Sport Development Officer with considerable voluntary contribution from Jenny Clarke.