



CROQUET MATTERS

SPRING 2025

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Chief Executive

Welcome to the Croquet New Zealand Newsletter!

The croquet season is in full swing, with the first couple of tournaments already wrapped up and a series of exciting invitation events scheduled for November.

A special congratulations goes to Logan McCorkindale for his outstanding performance at the Association Croquet World Championship, where he proudly earned a Bronze Medal.

At our recent Annual General Meeting, members approved a new constitution, and CNZ has now been successfully reregistered under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. This marks a significant step forward as we begin the process of electing a new board. The AGM also featured our annual Awards Presentation, where we honoured the achievements of clubs and individuals.

In another important development, CNZ has initiated the recruitment process for a new Chief Executive to lead us into the next chapter.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter and wish you a fantastic croquet season ahead!

Stefan Horrer

CNZ Chief Executive Recruitment

The CNZ Board have commenced the process to recruit a new Chief Executive to lead CNZ through the next stage of its evolution.

If you think you or someone you know are the right person to take on this exciting challenge, are passionate about croquet and would like to take our organisation forward, please let us know.

Details of the role and how to apply can be found [here](#).

CNZ Tournaments

Tournament Calendar

The 2025/26 CNZ tournament calendar can be found [here](#). To register follow the links below.

[CNZ Tournament Entries](#)

[CNZ Expressions of Interest](#)

2025-26 Tournaments

Secondary Schools GC Tournaments

Congratulations to Park CC's youth duo Jayda Sharp and Charlie Ainsworth for being the first winners of the Felix Webby Cup. Representing Te Paepae o Aotea, they needed a dramatic comeback against the Palmerston North team of sisters Emily and Katie Zentveld. Their composure in the deciding game, earned them the trophy. The tournament saw strong performances from all the teams, leaving Felix Webby impressed with the calibre of play when he presented the trophy to the winners.

Felix Webby and CNZ SDO Greg Bryant then shared their knowledge and expertise in organising a tailored coaching session.



Felix Webby, Shayda Sharp & Charlie Ainsworth

Women's GC Championship

Helen Reeves (Central Districts) won the final against Under 21 player Mattie Clarkson (Counties Manukau) in a very exciting match. Helen won on the 13th hoop of the third game!

Plate winner: **Vanessa Hanna** (Waikato-King Country)

Best 3+ player: **Sally Cole** (Auckland)

See full report [here](#).

AC Club Teams Event

Four club teams from Orewa, Whakatane, Wellington and Waireka met over Labour Long Weekend in Mount Maunganui to compete in an AC teams event. This development tournament consists of doubles play only and each team includes at least one young developing player and one female player. While one key purpose of this event is development, it is still a competition and this year saw the Wellington Municipal Croquet Club win the event for the first time. The team consisted of Felix Webby, Harps Tahurangi, Alison Robinson, Callum McKinnon, Graeme Fisher and Simon Dell.

Well done Wellington!

Upcoming Tournaments

In November CNZ will be holding the Women's AC Invitation Event in Paraparaumu from 14 to 16 November, followed a week later by the GC Invitation Events held in Christchurch and Ashburton from 21 to 23 November.

Details can be found in our yearbook on pages 19 to 22.

CNZ AGM

2025 Annual General Meeting

At the AGM on the 4th of October 2025, Members approved a new constitution for CNZ to allow it to re-register under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. Following the re-registration CNZ has commenced the process to elect a new Board with six positions to be filled. It is expected that the new Board will be elected and assuming authority during December 2025.

Award Winners

Congratulations to all our 2024-25 winners!

Presidents Trophy:

Broadfield Croquet Club (Canterbury)

Huon Pine Bowl:

Broadfield Croquet Club (Canterbury)

Club Participation Award:

- 1) **Park Croquet Club** (Taranaki)
- 2) Rose Gardens CC (Central Districts)
- 3) Kelburn Municipal CC (Wellington)

Most Improved AC Player:

Andrew Stuckey (Auckland)

Most Improved GC Player:

Katie Zentveld (Central Districts)

Volunteer of the Year:

John Byers (Taranaki)

Contribution to Croquet:

Annie Henry (MNWC)

Player of the Year:

Jenny Clarke & Levi Franks (both Canterbury)



Player of the Year Winners: Levi Franks and Jenny Clarke

New Resources available

The CNZ Tournament Committee have developed various new resources to support tournament managers of any levels to ensure consistent tournament quality across Aotearoa. Click on the links below to explore these new and exciting resources.

[Tournament Manager Guide](#)

[Tournament Manager Matrix](#)

[Format Helper Tool](#)

Visit the [CNZ website](#) to find more resources and information.

World Croquet Federation

2025 WCF Association Croquet World Championship

The World Championship in Association Croquet was held in Florida from 18 to 26 October. New Zealand was represented by six players with Jenny Clarke, brothers Logan & Reece McCorkindale (all Canterbury), Jarrod Coutts (South Canterbury) and Edmund Fordyce (Thames Valley) qualifying for the knockout phase, while John Versey (Central Districts) continued in the Plate Event after the Block phase. Reece McCorkindale had to earn his spot in the World Championship through the qualifying tournament and followed it up with impressive performances in the Block phase to reach the knockout.

Edmund Fordyce lost in the first round of the knockout however, then went on to reach the final of the Bowl Event, where he lost to veteran and former AC World Champion Stephen Mulliner of England. Jenny Clarke reached the semifinal of the Bowl Event.

Logan McCorkindale started the knockout stage with a comfortable win in two games over Coutts followed by convincing wins in straight games against Alain Giraud of England and Ben Rothman of the USA to reach the semifinal. Unfortunately, the semifinal opponent Reg Bamford of South Africa proved too strong and Logan lost the semifinal three games to nil. Bamford went on to win his sixth AC World Championship title!

Well done to the entire team and congratulations to Logan for winning the Bronze Medal and to Reg Bamford for his World Championship title.

Association & Club News

Guinness World Record Attempt

At nearly 102, is **Neville Sandiford** the oldest male player still competing in croquet tournaments? We are hoping to have the answer before the end of the year!

Neville competed in an Over 80's GC Tournament in Waikanae in mid-August attempting to set a Guinness World Record.



Neville in action, August 2025.



See the full report of the 80+ GC Tournament held by Waikanae [here](#).

Gisborne GC Open

The singles for handicap 6 and over had to be cancelled due to bad weather. But the Premier Singles went ahead on 13-14 September.



From left to right, Winner **Joe Hogan** Barry Memorial CC, runner up **Ashley Cooke** Mt

Maunganui and third place **John Wilson** Barry Memorial CC.

See full report [here](#).

Other Information

Cancer Awareness

September and October are two months during which awareness for two common cancers affecting a large number of people, including our members, every year. September was Blue September raising awareness of prostate cancer, while October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

A message from Prostate Cancer Foundation NZ

Regular prostate checks—including an annual PSA blood test—are crucial for men in their 40s-60s, as early detection dramatically improves the chances of curative treatment and can prevent premature death from prostate cancer, which accounts for over 4,000 NZ cases and 700 deaths each year. Because prostate cancer often develops silently, routine screening helps identify elevated PSA levels that warrant further investigation before the disease spreads beyond the prostate, where treatment options become limited. Learn more through [Prostate Cancer Foundation NZ](#) (prostate.org.nz or 0800 66 0800).

October – Breast Cancer Awareness month!

Regular breast cancer screenings—such as mammograms and clinical exams—are essential for women, especially those over 40, because early detection greatly increases the likelihood of successful treatment and reduces mortality. Breast cancer remains one of the most common cancers worldwide. Since many tumours develop without obvious symptoms, women are encouraged to schedule yearly check-ups, stay informed and seek [resources](#) from organisations like [Breast Cancer Foundation NZ](#).

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](#).

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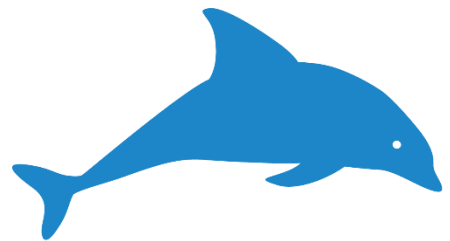


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