



CROQUET MATTERS

Autumn 2025-26

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Over the last three and a half years CNZ has undergone several changes, which would not have been possible without the support of the croquet community. From volunteers at club and association levels, tournament volunteers, the CNZ Board and staff, and especially volunteers on the CNZ operational committees as well as our players. Thank you!

Croquet is an amateur sport that relies on volunteers and can only survive with their help and the continued focus on competition. Croquet is first and foremost a sport and it is the competitive aspect of the game that will keep driving the sport and the organisation forward.

I hope I am leaving CNZ in a better place than it was when I joined and I am wishing Dallas and the new Board all the best to drive the next stage of growth and development of CNZ with your continued support.

I am looking forward to spending more time on the croquet lawns around the country... and I might see you around!

Stefan Horrler

Chief Executive

So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, goodbye...

It has been a long time coming following my resignation last June, but it is now finally time to say goodbye.

Croquet NZ News

CNZ Board Chair

The new CNZ Board took authority at the beginning of December and is responsible for shaping the next phase of CNZ's development and growth.

Following a vacancy Graeme Roberts was appointed to the Board and also elected Board Chair to ensure continuity during this transition phase, with the intention to elect a new Chair after a few months after the new Board members had an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the organisation.

On 30 March 2026 Graeme stepped down as Chair and Ivan Smith (Waikato-King Country) took over as new Chair. Graeme will remain on the Board until the next Annual General Meeting. Thank you Graeme for your service and congratulations to Ivan.

Chief Executive Recruitment

Dallas Cooke has been appointed as the new Chief Executive and has now taken over from Stefan.

CNZ Tournaments

Tournament Calendar

The 2025/26 CNZ tournament calendar has now come to an end and the calendar for next season has almost been finalised. It will be shared as soon as possible.

2025-26 Tournaments

AC Open

The AC Open were hosted by Waikanae and Paraparaumu Croquet Club, Wellington from 3 to 10 January 2026.

The doubles event was won by Edmund Fordyce and Paddy Chapman (both Thames Valley), beating fellow MacRobertson Shield team members Logan McCorkindale (Canterbury) and Greg Bryant (MNWC).

In the singles event Logan McCorkindale faced Edmund Fordyce in the final and reversed the

result from the doubles winning the best of five final 3:1.

See full report [here](#).

GC Open

The GC Open held at Heretaunga Croquet Club in Havelock North from 13 to 18 January 2026, was dominated by Josh Winter (Canterbury), who won the doubles with partner Paul Kaiser (Canterbury) beating Nelson Morrow (Auckland) and Shane Davies (Australia).

Josh also won the singles event beating Mohammad Kanal (USA) in the final.

See full report [here](#).

Top AC Invitation

The Top AC Invitation was held at Morrinsville Croquet Club, Thames Valley, over Waitangi weekend. Felix Webby (Central Districts) and Paddy Chapman (Thames Valley) finished the double round robin on equal wins and with time available played a deciding final. Chapman prevailed to win the Silver Tray and securing his fourth title in the last five years.

See full report [here](#).

South Island GC Championships

Te Kiri King dominated the South Island GC Championships, held at Brooklyn Croquet Club in Blenheim on Waitangi weekend. Te Kiri won the doubles with partner Nicola Clement (both Taranaki) and also beat Nicola in the singles final.

See full report [here](#).

GC 3+ Championship

The GC 3+ Championship was held at Epsom Remuera Croquet Club, Auckland, from 13 to 15 February 2026.

The event was won by defending champion Mei Williams (Auckland) who beat Sally Cole (Auckland) in the final.

Men's & Women's Championships

The Men's & Women's Championships were held at United Croquet Club in Christchurch from 18 to 22 February.

The mixed doubles event was won by Jenny & Chris Clarke (Canterbury) ahead of Miranda Chapman (Thames Valley) and Greg Bryant (MNWC).

In a replay of last year's final Miranda Chapman won the Women's Championship final against Bonnie Johnstone (Taranaki), while the Men's Championship was won by Levi Franks (Canterbury) who prevailed over Greg Bryant and finished the tournament unbeaten.

Women's GC Invitation

Matamata Croquet Club hosted the Women's GC Invitation from 27 February to 1 March 2026.

Ten players competed in a best of three block. Two players finished on equal match wins and equal net games. Consequently the winner was determined in the direct match between the two meaning that Ashley Cooke (Bay of Plenty) won ahead of Nicola Clement (Taranaki).

Don Reyland Memorial Stars

Epsom Remuera Croquet Club, Auckland, hosted a second CNZ tournament this season when they ran the Don Reyland Memorial Stars Event from 6 to 8 March.

14 association representatives qualified for the national GC handicap final to compete in a single round robin. Two players finished on nine wins from their 13 games. With time available a final was played to determine the winner. Bev Archer (Taranaki) prevailed over Jo Bateman (South Canterbury) to win her first national title.

Second & Third AC Invitation Events

The Second & Third AC Invitation Events were held at Rose Gardens Croquet Club in Palmerston North from 14 to 18 March 2026.

Eight players competed in the Second AC Invitation in a double round robin over five days, while ten players battled over three days in a

single round robin to determine the winner of the Third AC Invitation.

The Second AC Invitation was dominated by Levi Franks and Reece McCorkindale (both Canterbury) with Franks ultimately prevailing when he beat McCorkindale in the last round to secure his second win in an Invitation Event this season and winning the Edwina Thompson Silver Tray. Earlier in the season Franks won the Top GC Invitation.

The Third AC Invitation saw Graeme Fisher (Wellington) and Peter Filbee (Taranaki) finish on equal wins with seven each. With a better net hoops record Graeme Fisher won the Roger Murfitt Trophy ahead of Filbee.

Arthur Ross Memorial Event

Pukekohe Croquet Club, Counties Manukau, hosted the final CNZ tournament of the season with the Arthur Ross Memorial Event. Ten players competed in a single round robin over three days from 27 to 29 March 2026.

The event was won by Nicola Clement (Taranaki) who went through the tournament undefeated. Local player Sarah Lin (Counties Manukau) was runner up in her first national tournament.

Association & Club News

Inaugural Eastern vs Western regions competition

The teams selected to represent the first Eastern versus Western regions of the Croquet Central District to compete for the Micki Tyler cup donated by Micki's family met at the Rangatira Croquet Club Dannevirke on Sunday 1st March. The teams of two players from each of the handicaps 2,3 to 5, 6,8 to 9 played three doubles and two singles in their group totalling 28 games.

There were some very close games played with the result being 18 to 10 to the Western Team.

For those who don't know Micki Tyler she was a fantastic Ambassador for the game and a tireless

worker as a referee and referee coach and examiner.



Participants Inaugural Eastern vs Western regions competition.

A Curious Game

“Alice thought she had never seen such a curious croquet field in her life; it was all ridges and furrows; the balls were live hedgehogs; the mallets live flamingo’s.....” A humorous series of excerpts from Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland have inspired a set of 6 Art Prints made by Geoff Pearman from the Leith Croquet Club.

The limited edition series are printed on archival paper, embossed and matted ready to insert in an A4 frame. They are for sale at \$50 plus postage (\$10). If in Dunedin they can be seen and picked up at the Leith Club. \$24 from each sale will be donated to the Leith Croquet Club.

To request a catalogue contact Geoff Pearman at gpearman@xtra.co.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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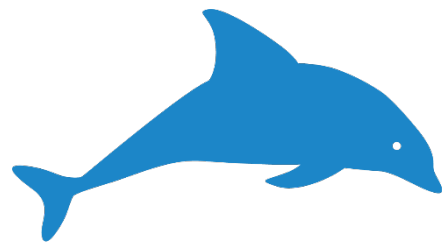
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