



Cammeray Croquet Club



January 2023

<http://www.cammeray-croquet.org.au>

Women's World Championship

This was held in New Zealand 7th to 14th January. It had an impressive field, with five of the top-ranked women entering - 1 Jenny Clarke 2 Gabrielle Higgins, 4 Debbie Lines 5 Alison Sharpe, 6 Miranda Chapman.

The lawns were fast, and the hoops very tight; outside the top six players there were few peg-outs, and there was not a single triple peel in the whole tournament. In the live streaming we saw several good players blob in hoops from close by.

One of the contenders was our own Cammeray member, Alison Sharpe, who is ranked 5th in the world for women. She lost the first game in her block, but then won every other game to finish with 8 wins from 9 games, and qualify for the knockout.



Alison Sharpe



Debbie Lines

In the knockout Alison beat Marion McInnes of New Zealand in straight games (2-0), and then Alison Robinson of New Zealand. She then encountered Gabrielle Higgins of England, who is ranked second in the world, in the semi-final and lost two games to one.

The final was between two English players – Debbie Lines having beaten the top seed Jenny Clarke of New Zealand. Debbie Lines went on to win the world championship 26-3, 19-22, 22-11. Debbie (formerly Debbie Cornelius) is married to Ian Lines, a top-level English player, and she is the Secretary-General of the World Croquet Federation.

Leaves – the diagonal spread

When a player has gone through 1-back or 4-back in games played under advanced rules, he or she gives a lift to the opposition. The opponent can take either of their balls to either A-baulk or B-baulk and play their shot from there.

It is in the interest of the player who has given the leave to make it as difficult as possible for the opponent to make a roquet, and at the same time make it possible to start a break if the opponent misses. There are various 'leaves' that are intended to achieve this. The most popular is the DIAGONAL SPREAD.

The diagram below shows the ideal situation for the diagonal spread, set by red and yellow, assuming that yellow has just made 3-back, and wants to start a break next turn with red.

The key aspects of this are:

Red and yellow are at the furthest point from either baulk line (about 18 yards).

Black cannot aim at red and yellow because it is hampered by the peg.

Blue cannot hit black because the peg is in the way; and the peg also obstructs red and yellow.

Black and blue are a long way from either baulk line.

This arrangement satisfies the requirement that it is difficult for black and blue to make a roquet.

Options now for blue and black:

It is dangerous for black or blue to aim at the red and yellow from A baulk after taking the lift, as this gives an extra ball to use by red if they miss.

It is also dangerous for black to aim at blue, or blue to aim at black from either baulk line. The best option is for blue to aim at red down the east boundary from B-baulk.

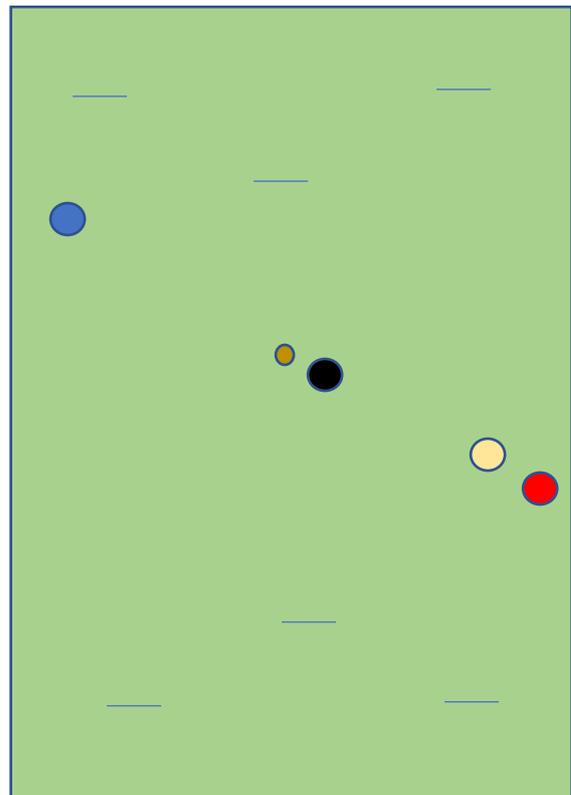


Fig 1: the ideal diagonal spread

How do we achieve this position? If we are going round to 3-back and then setting the leave, planning needs to start as soon as 1-back is made. We need to make 3-back off an opposition ball, so if we have made 1-back off our partner ball, we need to change balls before we send our pioneer to 3-back. We want our partner ball near the peg, so we send partner to the peg while getting a rush on the opponent ball to the west boundary. Now we can croquet the opponent ball to 3-back while getting close to our pioneer at 2-back. After making 2-back (see Fig 2), we put the receiver ball also to the peg, roquet the ball already at the peg, then go over and make 3-back.

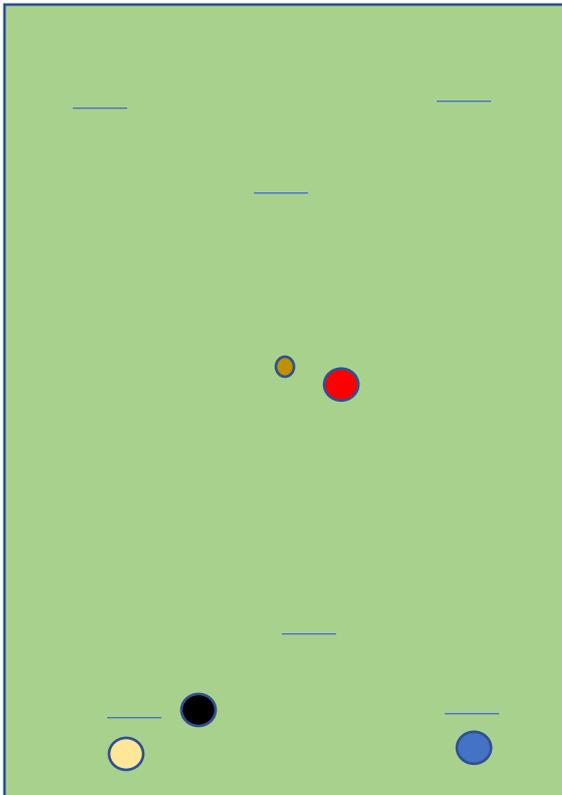


Fig. 2 Position after making 2-back

We now rush (and/or roll) the opponent ball (black) to the peg, roquet our partner ball (red) then take off and make 3-back. After making 3-back, we send blue to the west boundary south of hoop 2, nudge the black ball into a position wired from blue and hampered by the peg – then roquet our partner ball and roll them down towards the east boundary, preferably to a position wired from blue and black.

We now see why we want our partner ball near the peg before we make 3-back: we need to focus on putting the opponent ball in the right spot without having to worry about being able to roquet the partner ball.

Imperfect leaves

We do not always get our croquet shots perfect, but the diagonal leave is reasonably tolerant of inaccuracy.

If we do not get black completely hidden from blue, it is still a long roquet, and the peg usually forms some obstruction. Wiring red and yellow from blue is not too important, as this is a very long roquet. The main problem would be if black is not hampered by the hoop; if this is the case we have to be careful not to leave a double for black. It is often a good idea to put red and yellow nearer corner 4 if this is the case, to lengthen the roquet.

Making a break

We are assuming that red is for hoop 1.

The best option for blue/black is to take the lift and aim blue down the east boundary from B-baulk towards red and yellow.

If we assume that this occurs, and that it misses, we have blue on the south boundary near corner 4. Red now rushes yellow towards the peg, and then does a croquet shot putting yellow near hoop 2 and getting a rush on black to hoop 1. If this works, then red does a three-ball break up to hoop 4, when the blue can be picked up. (It is picked up before making hoop 4).

If red is for a hoop other than hoop 1, the leave should still work, but the player has to work out the sequence to start the break. For example, if red is for hoop 2, then red rushes yellow to near the peg, then croquets yellow to hoop 3 while getting a rush on black to hoop 2.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the club will be on Saturday 4th February at 10 a.m. Do come along to this meeting – it rarely last more than an hour, and there are reports on how the club went in the past year, and election of a new committee.

We need a quorum for the meeting to take place.

Lawn Renovation

The lawns were closed for renovation from 9th January to the 23rd January, re-opening on the 24th January.

The lawn renovation involved:

- Scraping the lawn surface to remove dead grass from under the visible new growth (Scarifying)
- Drilling small holes in the lawn to improve drainage (Coring)
- Lightly top dressing the lawn to smooth and level the lawn
- Fertilizing
- After a few days another light top dressing
- Just before re-opening, Mow and mark new lines



Lawns on 11th January showing top dressing and coring



Lawns on 18th January with grass growing through the top-dressing

We owe a great debt to Mick Stokes, the North Sydney Council groundsman who does such a good job, in a short time-frame; and also to Alan Walsh (and Barbara McDonald) who set out all the hoops afterwards.

Upcoming Tournaments

The Mosman Bash will be held from 24th to 26th March. This is an enjoyable tournament which usually sees several Cammeray people taking part. Contact Fidy Westgarth at tournamentmanager@mosmancroquet.org.au for more details. For details of upcoming tournaments, including the flyers and entry forms, look at [Check our on-line noticeboard for events at other clubs](#) which is on the members' section of the Cammeray website.