



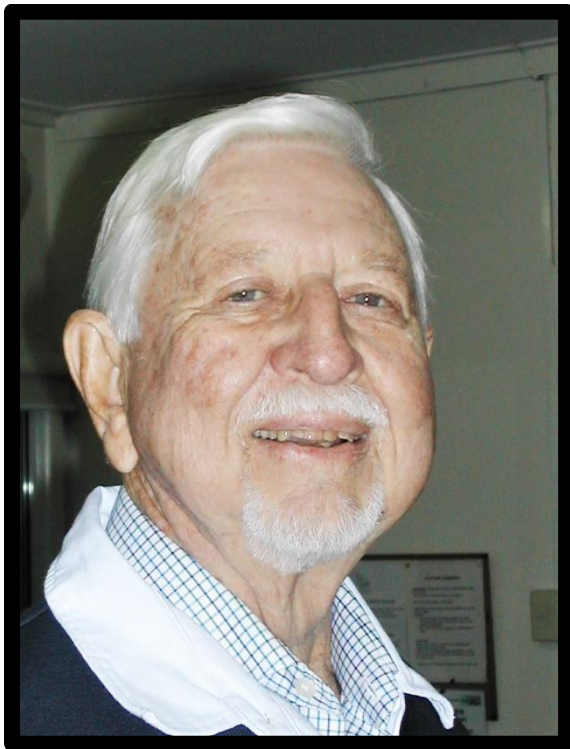
Cammeray Croquet Club



February 2023

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

Vale Stephen Howes



It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Stephen Howes on the 11th February. Stephen made a huge contribution to croquet, at Cammeray Croquet Club, at state and national levels, and internationally. He was President of the club and coached a large proportion of our new members. He was an outstanding referee, a first class examining referee, and a splendid Tournament Referee for major tournaments.

There was a large turnout of croquet players at the funeral on 22nd February, with members from Cammeray, EDSACC and Mosman.

At our AGM on 4th February Stephen was made a life member of the club for his outstanding contribution. The Citation for this award summarises his achievements:

CITATION FOR STEPHEN HOWES AS A LIFE MEMBER OF CAMMERAY CROQUET CLUB

Stephen Howes joined Cammeray Croquet Club in May 2001. At that time the membership was just 35 with Ken Clapp and Neil Hartley the only other males.

Stephen was Club President from 2003 -2005. With the support of Neil Hartley and new member Neil Hardie, Stephen initiated a program to increase the membership. This involved open days, a stall at Kirribilli markets and a number of beginner courses to teach Association Croquet. In order to teach these courses Stephen, and the two Neils all became accredited coaches. As well as beginner courses, the coaching team ran regular refresher coaching courses.

Membership jumped to 70 in one year. Ted Griffin, Alan Walsh and Mike Hughes and Barbara McDonald were among the many current members introduced to AC, and inspired to excel in it, by Stephen

During Stephen's presidency Twilight Croquet sessions were introduced along with Saturday afternoon sessions for working members. The Club won the Mosman Daily Community Business Award as an 'outstanding sporting

and recreational organisation. The lawns were re-laid, floodlights installed and the Birthday Tournament introduced.

In 2004 Stephen was awarded the Australian Government Sports Achievement Award for "your valuable contribution to the sporting community through your service to the aged and disabled". Stephen served on the Club handicap Committee for many years and in 2007 established the Stephen Howes Award for most improved player. He was again Club President in 2012.

He was instrumental in forming the Mangrove Mountain Croquet Club

Stephen made a great contribution to refereeing. He became an AC umpire in 2010, a referee in 2011, and an examining referee in 2014. When he became an examining referee there were only two active examiners in Sydney, so he had to be involved in all the exams for referees and umpires. He became a golf croquet referee in 2014. He was very active as a referee in both golf and AC.

Stephen was tournament referee (he organised and managed the referees for that tournament) for many events, including the Dixon Classics and the Australian Open. His most remarkable effort was as Tournament Referee for the World Championships in Florida in 2016. The USA had a shortage of suitable officials, and Stephen did a great job in running the tournament with a minimal number of referees.

He refereed the World Championship held in Melbourne in 2021.

Stephen also ran many refresher courses for referees.

For his outstanding contribution to the development of the Cammeray Croquet Club and for his record of service to Croquet, both nationally and internationally we are delighted to propose a Life Membership for Stephen. We consider him to be a very worthy recipient of that honour.

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He played in many tournaments, both association and golf, but association was his first love. He was a lovely player to watch, with a smooth and elegant style; but he was also very competitive and did not like to lose. He won many tournaments, both club and state.

He played at the top level, including CNSW Opens. He also travelled to many of the country tournaments in Orange, Urunga, Wagga and coped with their variable lawns. He took part in the famous continuous 24 hour croquet session in Canberra to raise funds for a charity

As a referee he was probably the most respected referee in NSW. His refereeing was impeccable, and his air of authority stopped anyone from challenging his decisions. He was invited by the World Croquet Federation to be the Tournament Referee for the World Croquet Championships in Florida, a task that required great tact and great firmness. Stephen had both. The players at the world championships in Florida were full of praise at the way he ran that tournament.

He was an examining referee, which was an interesting challenge. Many of the candidates for umpire had not had an examination of any kind for forty years, and their minds seized up frequently when faced with questions. Stephen had a gift for eliciting information which the candidate knew, but was having difficulty expressing – but without compromising the rigour of the exam.

Stephen took over the presidency of the club when its membership was largely older ladies who disliked change. Stephen used his charm and his authority to bring about dramatic change in the club, without losing the support of these ladies. His vision and his management skills has led to Cammeray being one of the leading clubs in NSW.



Stephen's elegant style



Fixing hoops at the World AC Championships in Florida



His concentration!



Stephen as referee at the Dixon Classic with Robert and Greg Fletcher

Cammeray Croquet Club AGM

The AGM was held on 4th February. As mentioned earlier, Stephen Howes was elected as a life member at this meeting. The treasurer's report indicated that our finances were sound, and a new committee was elected, basically the same as last year.




Members gathering before the meeting



Secretary Warren, President Malcolm and Treasurer Mike presiding over the meeting

The new committee consists of:

President Malcolm Sheldon; Secretary Warren Yates; Treasurer Mike Hughes; Vice-President Kristin Kool-Clarke; committee members Joanne Brown,  Ian Lucas, Gail Parrott and Alan Walsh.

General Member Information

A conversation about sponsorship

Many clubs have sponsors that enable them to offer significant prize money for their tournaments. Perhaps one of your friends or contacts is a decision maker in a company that might see value in sponsoring a tournament at Cammeray Club. The Dixon Croquet Classic which ran at Cammeray for a number of years was the result of a personal contact made by one of our members at the time, Juan Roberson. Companies that could see value in exposure to Croquet players would be worth approaching. For example, a local company that wanted to support community groups in their catchment might be interested in sponsoring the Birthday Tournament or a large multinational might be interested in giving us \$20,000 a year for five years to run an annual tournament with their name attracting the best players from around the world with substantial prize money. If you do have social connections with a decision maker in a company looking to raise their profile in our locality or our demographic, why not have the conversation.

Transitioning from being a beginner to playing at regular sessions.

This can be daunting so your Committee has come up with an idea that it hopes will help. Pairs of new member graduates from the Beginner Course will be allocated to a member who will stay in touch with them and encourage them to regularly attend a new session on Tuesday afternoons from 4 until 6 pm. The mentor will also attend and offer advice as requested as the pair of beginner course graduates play each other. Once the pair is sufficiently confident they will be encouraged to attend one of the regular Bronze sessions.

Coffee money

The club does not want to deal with cash paid for coffee pods; so members are requested to deposit an appropriate amount in the club account from time to time.

Tournaments

CNSW 3 and under (at Mosman)

Cammeray was well-represented here, with eight of the sixteen entrants. It was good to see our old friend Chris Lavina, and he had a fine win against Callum Hyland before being knocked out by Tim Murphy. Rosie Landrebe won all her games in the block, beating both Stephen Richards and Alan Walsh, but lost in the knockout to Alison Sharpe. Joanne Brown played very well, giving Alison a shock before losing 17-26, and beating Steve Miles 26-7.

Alison won the tournament, beating Trevor Bassett in the final 26-9. Peter Landrebe won the Y, Steve Miles was runner-up in the W.



Joanne Brown



Steve and Alison



Chris Lavina



Rosie Landrebe

CNSW 5 and under mixed doubles (at Cammeray)

This tournament also had half the players from Cammeray. It turned into a battle between Rosie Landrebe/Stephen Richards, and Diane Scott/Stephen Pearce, with Rosie and her partner finally winning on a hoop count-back.



Players watching the games



Rosie on her way to winning – Heather Smallbone in the background

Cammeray Beginners' Tournament

An encouraging seven players entered the Beginner Tournament. We are trying a new form this year, with a mentor assigned to each game to advise players on strategies and stroke play. This seems to be working well. A full report will be given next month when the competition has finished.