



# Cammeray Croquet Club



**April 2023**

## **Cammeray Beginners' Championship**      **by Rob Barrie**



**Heather Sherlock, winner of the Cammeray Beginners' Tournament**

My wife Margaret and I entered the Cammeray Beginners' Championship as the greenest of novices to AC croquet having joined Hunters Hill after a “come and try” croquet day in October 2022 where they basically only play golf croquet. We then joined Cammeray in January this year on the recommendation that it was the club to join if you wanted to learn AC. A further plus was the lawns at Cammeray were open in January when Hunters Hill were closed for maintenance. We started AC lessons with Ian Lucas on February 11 and were scheduled for our first game in the Championship ten days later so our knowledge of the game on entering was almost nil. An example being what Margaret said when she levelled the score with me in our match, “it’s a draw”. Neil Hardie had to intervene and say keep on playing, it’s a golden hoop.

Our congratulations to Heather Sherlock on winning the championship, she was easily the best and most experienced player in the competition.

We learned a tremendous amount in playing in this tournament about playing under pseudo tournament conditions with referees monitoring every shot. Thanks also to the mentors who asked what we were planning to do and then gave us a much smarter alternative option. Their patience must have been tested by our naivety at times. As the greenest novices we were frustrated at times with mentors not only advising players what shot to play but also lining up their balls and mallet for them for what seemed to us sitting down for an interminable time. We were doing our lessons with Ian Lucas in parallel with the championship while the other players would have completed lessons previously- it led me to question whether the law 56 on expeditious play had been abandoned.

Thanks again to Joanne for organizing this tournament and to Susan for stepping in while Joanne was earning glory for NSW in the Eire Cup. Many thanks to the many members too numerous to mention by name who were so generous with their time and patience with players new to AC croquet. What we learned will be invaluable in the future.

## Other Tournaments

**CNSW Bronze Singles** – Lucy Rees came third; it was good to see Robert Barrie playing in this tournament, and he had three good wins.

**CNSW Men’s GC Singles** – Peter Landrebe reached semi-final – Chris Lavina was also playing, but not in his best form.

**CNSW GC Open Singles** – P Landrebe won after an exciting final against David Scott of Ballina Cherry Street with scores of 4-7, 7-2, 7-4, 0-7, 7-4.

**Australian Open Ricochet Doubles** – Rob Elliot, partnering Don Wright of Cooks River, lost in the third game of a best-of-three final by one hoop.

(for those unfamiliar with Ricochet, it is similar to Association Croquet, but in place of a croquet shot, the player has two shots after a roquet, playing the striker’s ball where it finishes. It is more difficult to make breaks in Ricochet than in AC).

## Upcoming Tournaments

CNSW AC Men’s Singles – Tempe 28-30 April

CNSW Silver 2-5 May Strathfield

CNSW Gold singles 9-12 May Cammeray

Beryl Chambers qualifying metro north 18-19 May Cammeray

CNSW Women’s Singles 26-28 May – Tempe

CNSW Platinum singles 5-7 June Chatswood

### Cammeray participants

Hughes, Walsh

J Brown

SurrIDGE, J Brown

Stanton, Rees

J Brown

Stanton

## Morning Tea

There will be a morning tea on Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup> between 10am and 1pm. We very much hope you can attend - it should be fun and a great opportunity for you meet other members, new, not so new and prospective. If you haven’t been to the club recently, why don’t you come along for a hit and a giggle?

We’ll start with a short game of Golf Croquet then have refreshments and chats and after swapping partners, have another short game. Please RSVP by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> to Malcolm Sheldon at [president@cammeray-croquet.org.au](mailto:president@cammeray-croquet.org.au)

## Pennants Competition

This year's AC Pennants competition will kick-off soon so we need to pull together some teams. There will be two categories of competition this year - a bronze category for players with handicaps from 14 to 20, and an open category for all handicaps.

So, put simply, it doesn't matter what your handicap is, if you want to play in one of Cammeray's Pennants teams, we will find a place for you. And trust me, there is something very special about playing AC as part of a team!

Please let Joanne Brown know on [joanne.0707@hotmail.com](mailto:joanne.0707@hotmail.com) if you are interested in playing Pennants for Cammeray or if you have any questions.

## Warm-ups by Neil Hardie

Players are generally allowed a five-minute warm up before games. Many of them wander on to the lawn, do a few roquets and run a few hoops, and think that they have 'warmed up'. But a good warm-up is a very useful preparation for a game, and should be planned carefully.

The aims of a warm-up are:

- To get the swing going smoothly
- To check the speed of the lawn
- To practise a couple of key shots

If you are playing on an unfamiliar lawn, you may also wish to check the roll-off along the boundaries (play a ball from corner to corner along each boundary, and see which way it runs).

### Getting the swing going

This involves playing a few medium to long shots, focusing on keeping the head still and swinging smoothly. Many players, aware of the five minute time limit, tend to rush their shots and scurry around the lawn; this is the worst thing you can do to settle the swing.

### Checking the speed of the lawn

In this, the player notes how hard he/she has to hit to get a ball to a particular place. The player should send at least two shots from one side of the lawn to the other, trying to get the ball to finish as close to the boundary as possible. They should also do a short take-off from a ball on the non-playing side of a hoop to get position to run the hoop.

The player should also do a long full roll, and two hoop approaches from the side of the hoop, probably one yard away and three yards away. Run the hoop each time.

If any of these shots goes astray, repeat it – there is no point in starting the game without confidence in each shot. It is more important to get one shot right than to do a large number of shots.

### **Practice a couple of key shots**

There are some shots which you are likely to play early in the game. It is a good idea to play these in the warm-up so you have confidence in them. Examples are:

If you play the standard opening: doing a take-off from one side of the lawn to the other; and playing a rush from the east boundary to hoop 1.

I often play the Duffer's Tice, so I put a ball in the tice position near hoop 6, and then try to roquet it,

### **Summary**

A consistent warm-up routine is a good way of settling the nerves and developing confidence. Each player should plan their own routine, and stick to it. Use it every time you play, socially or competition.

If you follow the guidelines above, at the end you will have done take-offs, hoop runs, rushes and hoop approaches so you can start the game with confidence – and all shots are played better if you are confident!