



Cammeray Croquet Club

July
2023

Pennants

Cammeray had two teams in the pennants – one in the handicap bronze, and one in the open handicap. Three teams entered the bronze pennants, so it was held as a double round-robin with teams playing home and away games. It was a close contest between Cammeray and Canberra, with the result depending on the final game between these teams. If Cammeray won 3-0 it would win the tournament.



Cammeray team before the deciding match –
Rob Barrie, Michael Strickland (referee)
Sue Nicholas, Malcolm Sheldon and Kristen Kool-Clarke



Sue Nicholas playing in Canberra

Malcolm Sheldon describes the match: *The doubles, Rob and Kristen won, Sue won in her singles and I lost. My score was 18/10. The doubles was quite tight 13/11 to us. But it was Sue's match that was really exciting. She eventually won 17/16 but it went to a golden hoop, or rather a golden peg. The timer went while she was playing, her opponent had both clips on the peg and she had one, black; she was on penult with her other, blue. She made a poor approach to the hoop and was left with a really long shot from near the boundary. Given that time had been called she just went for it, and magically ran the hoop with the ball running on nearly to the peg. This put her with an easy roquet to yellow near rover. She made the roquet and ran the hoop. So, all balls were now on the peg. She finished her turn and her opponent missed her roquet. So, all even, they continued until one of them scored. And she was the first to peg-out and won. A really nail biting finish!*

However, the final result was that Canberra won on a games count-back.

In the Open Handicap the teams were Cammeray, Mosman, Chatswood, Killara and EDSACC. It was good to see EDSACC competing, as they have been a largely golf croquet club, but Larry Bryant is changing that. Mosman made a clean sweep, winning all their matches, losing only two games out of twelve. Cammeray came third to Killara on a game count-back.

Upcoming Tournaments

The NSW Selectors' Tournament is 5-6 August; Chris Lavina, Sue Eldridge-Smith and Joanne Brown are playing in this.

AC World Championship



Robert Fulford with the World Cup



Matthew Essick with the GC Trophy

The World Championship has been played about every second year since 1989. The venue moves between the four main croquet-playing nations – England, Australia, USA and New Zealand. So far, it has been won 9 times by England – five of those times by Robert Fulford - five times by South Africa –Reg Bamford in each case - twice by New Zealand, and once by an Australian (Robert Fletcher in 2013).

This year it was played at Hurlingham Club in England. Robert Fletcher was the top seed, and he went over to the UK to play in a couple of tournaments beforehand; he won the British Doubles partnering Stephen Mulliner, then was knocked out in the semi-finals of the British Open by Mark Avery, who went on to win.

The World Championship had few Australians competing; apart from Robert there were Dwayne McCormick, Callum Hyland, Stephen Forster, Lachlan Berryman and Kevin Beard out of a field of 80. There were also players from Spain, Sweden, Latvia, Egypt, South Africa, New Zealand, USA, Scotland and others.

The format was eight blocks of ten players, with the top four in each block going through to a knockout. There were some surprises in the block results, with Ian Lines, Jenny Clarke and Stephen Forster failing to qualify for the knockout.

Reg Bamford was beaten by Alan Giraud in the round of sixteen, and American Thomas Balding was an unexpected semi-finalist. In the semi-finals Robert Fletcher lost to the brilliant young American Matthew Essick (26TP-6, 26TP-10, 26TP-0), while Robert Fulford won against Thomas Balding.

The final between Fulford and Essick was a dramatic affair. They competed in 2022 for the GC World Championships, with Essick winning. The lawn at Hurlingham was very fast, with some tricky slopes near several hoops. Matthew won the first two games, and only had to win the third to become world champion. Robert made 9, then Matthew went to six and started a sextuple peel. He made a couple of errors, and found himself having to do a straight triple to finish. His Irish peel through 4-back did not go far enough and he could not hit anything except his partner ball – so he went to peg and set a leave; but Robert had contact, set up for a break, and finished.

The fourth game Robert won 26TP-0, so everything rested on the final game. Robert made 9, and Matthew peeled him through three hoops and pegged him out. Robert very nearly started a break, but in a twenty yard roll to get good position in front of hoop 2, the croquet ball went out due to a bare patch on the lawn. Matthew then did the standard 2 vs 1 strategy, wiring from Robert's ball and setting rushes to the next hoop. However, after 2-back he decided to pick up Robert's ball to finish quickly, missed a five yard roquet, and Robert finished, winning 26otp-18.

The whole final and many of the earlier games can be seen on www.youtube.com/@CroquetEngland/streams

Vale Diane Wiesner

We are sad to report that Diane Wiesner died earlier this month. Diane was a remarkable player, winning the ACA Gold Medal in 1976, and she was NSW Champion in 1976, 1977 and 1982. She was in the NSW State Team from 1975 to 1979 and was captain in 1979. She came from an outstanding croquet family – her father Jack was NSW Champion in 1976 and won the Beryl Chambers in 1977 and 1981. He was also in the State Team in 1977. Her mother, Mary Wiesner had been NSW Champion in 1972 and was in the State Team in 1971 and 1972. Jack and Mary Wiesner won the NSW Open Doubles in 1979 and 1981.

Diane rejoined Cammeray Club in 2011 after a long break, but dropped out again due to failing eyesight.



Diane Wiesner handing out trophies at the Cammeray Christmas party in 2011



Diane in earlier days