



Cammeray Croquet Club



December 2023

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

Christmas Party

There was a great turnout for the Christmas Party, with excellent food and much socializing.

Our Federal Member of Parliament, Kylea Tink, came to hand out the prizes and gave an encouraging talk praising our contribution to the community.



Members listening to our President, Malcolm Sheldon



Heather Sherlock with the beginner prize



Graham Maynard who won the bronze tournament



Joanne Brown with one of her three prizes

At the prize-giving, Heather Sherlock won the Cammeray Beginners' Prize; Graham Maynard won the Cammeray Bronze Tournament – surprisingly, this was the first Cammeray Tournament Graham has won, although he has won Croquet NSW competitions and other club tournaments. Michael Strickland won the Platinum competition.

Joanne Brown did very well this year: she won the Cammeray Silver Competition, then won the Cammeray Gold Tournament, and finally won the Cammeray Handicap Tournament. A fine achievement!

The Stephen Howes prize for the most improved player went to Joanne's brother, Chris Brown, who has reduced his handicap to 3. The Mila Kotala Award went to Alan Walsh, who has played a major role in making our lawns among the best in the country.



Chris Brown with the Stephen Howes Award



Alan Walsh getting the Mila Kotala Award



Some of the fine food provided



The weather was kind to us!

We are very grateful to Kristin, Gail and Mary who did the catering for this occasion.



Handicap tournament

This tournament had a wonderful range of players, with handicaps from 0.5 to 18. Joanne Brown played extremely well, only losing one game after she had ensured her win.

Rob Barrie also played well – he was the only player to beat Joanne.



Joanne receiving her trophy



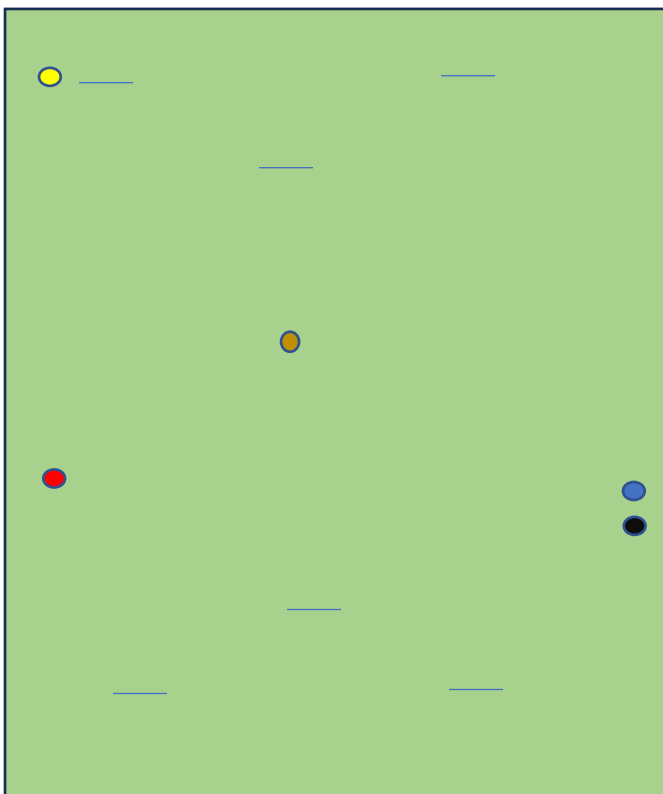
Rob Barrie

Lawn Closure

The lawns are expected to be closed for two weeks from 8th January for maintenance. This date may change depending on the weather.

Openings for games starting at Hoop 5

For 18 point games the laws now state that players should begin at hoop 5 instead of hoop 1. This makes a significant difference in the opening. Most bronze players use the standard opening, but the theory of this opening is designed for a hoop 1 start, not a hoop 5 start. The diagram below shows the situation after blue and black have joined up on the east boundary, and yellow has missed red along the west boundary. The recommended continuation from here is for black to rush blue up the lawn, then go across to yellow, and then come down and try to get a rush on red to hoop 1.



This is difficult for a hoop 1 start; for a start at hoop 5 it is almost impossible, so a new strategy has to be devised. The simplest approach would be for blue to roquet black, then roll across to hoop 5 – preferably staying east and south of the hoop, and setting a rush to hoop 5. It will be difficult for red to roquet (make sure you do not leave a double!), and next turn it will be easy to make the hoop.

If red then shoots at yellow, then blue, after making hoop 5, can go up to the red and yellow balls, roquet one and rush the other to hoop 6. (If red roquets yellow you are in trouble; but this is a low probability in view of the distance.)

Next month I will discuss alternatives to the standard opening for hoop 5 starts.

Happy New Year!