



# Cammeray Croquet Club



**January 2024**

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

## Lawn Refurbishment

The lawns had their annual maintenance from 8<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> January. This is needed to keep the lawns in such good shape, and North Sydney Council are very efficient in completing the work in a couple of weeks.

The process starts with scarifying the lawns – putting holes in the lawns to aerate the grass, and ensure that the fertilizer reaches the roots; then fertilizer is spread over the lawns and herbicide to suppress the weeds.



results of scarifying



provision of fertilizer



spreading the fertilizer



clearing excess fertiliser

Finally a top-dressing of sand is put on the lawns – this helps growth, and also smooths out uneven sections.

We were grateful for the invitation of Mosman Croquet Club to play at their lawns while ours were out of action.

## Upcoming Tournaments

CNSW 3 and under singles 3-4 February: Joanne Brown, Rob Elliott, Alan Walsh

CNSW 5 and under mixed doubles 17-18 February: Joanne Brown

Mosman Bash : 5-7 April

## Annual General Meeting

The Cammeray Croquet Club AGM will be held on Saturday February 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. All members are invited to come along to help elect next year's committee, hear the reports on what has happened in the last year, and to have some refreshments.

## SOME ALTERNATIVE OPENINGS FOR HOOP 5 GAMES

For bronze tournaments the start for 18 point games is now at hoop 5, not hoop 1. This requires some rethinking on the opening strategies.

The best way to play any opening depends on the skills of the player and their opponent. If you can roquet better than your opponent, there are many more options. If your opponent is better at roquets, then you need to play more defensively.

The general principle of the opening is that the first player puts their first ball out of reach of a roquet, and the second player puts their first ball just within range of a roquet.

For an 18 point game starting at hoop 5, the standard opening is rarely the best option. If you can roquet better than your opponent, and you are playing first, a good strategy is to put your first ball near the peg. This is generally out of reach of your opponent, and can give you a chance of starting a break on your second turn. If your opponent puts their first ball along the west boundary, then you have two options. Most bronze players put their ball halfway up the lawn where it is very difficult to roquet – so you leave it there and put your ball just past the peg, avoiding a double and giving yourself a simple rush to hoop 5.

If your opponent puts their ball within roquet distance, then your superior roquet ability should enable you to hit the target; if you feel confident you then do a roll to put your opponent ball at hoop 6 and your ball in a position to rush your partner down to hoop 5. If that is too ambitious, then you play a shot which moves the opponent ball out of reach of a roquet (up towards hoop 2) and put your ball in a position to rush your partner to hoop 5.

If you are the second player and your opponent puts their first ball near the peg, you have several options depending on your confidence. If you are roqueting well, then a duffer's tice can be powerful – though it can give your opponent a double (unless you put the tice to the left of hoop 6) and it leaves your ball near hoop 6 which is dangerous. A more defensive option is corner 2: aim to go out just south of the corner. This means that if your opponent aims at this and misses on the right, you will get a double (even if they are not accurate, as the ball is replaced on the yard-line).

Unless the opponent is very good at roquets, their best option in this situation is to put their second ball two yards south of corner 2, so if the second player misses, they have two balls to use. (The probability of the average bronze player hitting a single ball in the corner from the baulk is about 20%). However, the second player is better advised to aim at the ball near the peg, not the ones in the corner: if they miss, at least their ball is not in a useful position for the opponent, provided they aim to finish well past the target.

Another option for the first player is to set a rush to hoop 5. They play their first ball from B-baulk, and send it down two yards out from the east boundary to a position between hoop 4 and the peg. After the second person has played (hopefully not within easy roquet distance) the first player picks out the spot on the boundary for the second ball which will give a straight rush to hoop 5. Don't try to hit the first ball!



Playing croquet in earlier times .....

