



Cammeray Croquet Club



March 2024

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

Cammeray Birthday Tournament 25th to 28th April (and lunch!)

This is Cammeray Croquet Club's main tournament of the year, open to all croquet players with handicaps 12 or less. Entries are full, but members should come and watch the games, and come to the lunch on Sunday 28th April.

There will be four sessions of play on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and two sessions on Sunday. Games will have a duration of two hours and 15 minutes, with the first games each day starting at 9:00am followed by games at 11:40am, 2:20pm and 5:00pm, or earlier as lawns become available. Lights will be used for the last session and earlier if required. The tournament will be block play followed by a modified double elimination knock-out. Players will have a minimum of five games across the four days. The winner will have their name engraved on The Maureen Cope Trophy. Prize money is: - Winner: \$200 Runner Up: \$150 Plate winner: \$100

Play on Sunday will be followed by drinks and a celebratory lunch, starting around 1.30 p.m. which will cost \$20 for non-players.

Tournaments

There has been a feast of top-level play in Australia this month, with the Gold Medal, the Australian Men's and Women's Championship, and the Eire Cup. All these events were held in succession in Tasmania, so that the leading players could gather for all the events.

The Gold Medal

For this event, each state chooses between six and ten of its best players, who then compete in a round-robin tournament, called the Bronze Medal. The winner gets the Bronze Medal, and is then eligible to compete in the Gold Medal Event. The Gold Medal is thus between a single representative of each state, and the winner gets the Gold Medal and the runner-up the Silver Medal. It was a double round-robin where each player plays each other player twice.

The favourite, Ed Wilson of South Australia withdrew, leaving it a very open competition. The NSW representative, Stephen Pearce (Canberra), was off-form and lost 6 of his 8 games. The winner was Greg Hill of Victoria who won 7 from 8.

The Australian Men's Championship

This is a knockout tournament, playing best of three in the first three rounds, and best of five for the semi-finals and finals. Robert Fletcher (who tops the world AC rankings) was playing and it was no surprise that he won. The only surprise was that he dropped a game to Lachlan Berryman in the quarter-finals, and two games to Jeff Newcombe in the semi-final. Stephen Pearce found his form again and got to the semi-final where he lost to Stephen Foster of Victoria 3-2 in the best of five contest.

The Australian Women's Championship

This is similar to the Men's Championship, a knockout playing best of three right up to the finals. There was one Cammeray member in it, Joanne Brown. She won her first match against Jane Hyland (Callum Hyland's mother), then came up against the top seed, Kerry-Ann Organ, who defeated her (but lost in the semi-final). Joanne then took a game off Megan Reynolds in the Y event, and then won her first match in the W event to reach the final there, where she took a game off Willy Silk. All the players she beat are ranked well above her in the world croquet rankings. The main tournament was eventually won by Elaine Coverdale of Victoria.

Eire Cup

This is the annual competition between teams from each Australian state. Last year NSW won the trophy due to a brilliant break by Cammeray member Peter Landrebe in the final deciding game against Victoria.

The format is that each team has four men and four women, and each state plays each other state in a match consisting of four doubles games and sixteen singles games, making twenty in all.

NSW had three Cammeray members – Peter Landrebe, Rosie Landrebe and Joanne Brown. Unfortunately our top woman player Alison Sharpe (also a Cammeray member) was not available.

Rosie Landrebe played splendidly, winning all her singles matches and only losing one doubles match. Joanne also did well, winning four of her ten singles games, always against players ranked higher than her.

Some of the games had very low scores; the lawns at Rosny Park were converted bowling greens and were lightning fast. Peter Landrebe decided to play defensively here, and won his game 9 -7! Eastern Shore was also difficult – Joanne Brown reported: *One of the lawns at eastern shore deteriorated over the 9 days too. I played well on it in the Aus Women's singles, but by the 3rd and 4th days of the Eire Cup, it was a random patchwork of lawn speeds, so quite tricky to maintain a controlled break. That's where I managed to beat the SA women by playing quite defensively and managing to hit some spectacular long roquets ... still only managed 10 hoops in both games!*

In the end NSW lost narrowly to South Australia, and then lost decisively to Victoria, who won the trophy this year.

Upcoming Tournaments

5-7 April – Mosman Bash – many Cammeray members play in this

9-11 April CNSW Bronze Singles – Robert Barrie has entered this

19-22 April: CNSW GC Open singles – Peter and Rosie Landrebe are in this

30th April to 3rd May CNSW Silver Singles

7-10 May CNSW Gold Singles, with Joanne Brown

17-18 May CNSW Men's Open Singles, with Chris Lavina

24-26 May CNSW Women's Open Singles, with Joanne Brown

CNSW Pennants Competitions

There are two pennants competitions, Bronze for handicaps between 14 and 20 and Open for all handicaps (games will be played with bisques). Anyone interested in playing for Cammeray in the pennants should contact Joanne Brown.

New Members

We welcome people who have joined Cammeray In the last couple of months:

From the beginners' course – Frances Doherty and Carolyn Shrimpton

From Mosman Croquet Club – David and Bronwyn McGrane

From Manly Croquet Club – David and Bernie Gibson



David and Bernie Gibson

David and Bernie are well-known to Cammeray members as they play in many competitions. David is an AC Referee, and also manages the Manly Seabreeze Tournament (one of the most complex events in the calendar!).

They report: *We joined Cammeray to be able to play on the good lawns and because there are a number of AC players of similar standard to us. David is on 11, Bernie on 12. We enjoy playing in tournaments and are currently booked for Mosman Bash, Urunga AC carnival and Port Macquarie.*

We will be continuing to also play at Manly and to encourage GC players as they learn AC.
Bernie and David



The Tibouchina at the croquet club is looking splendid at present