



Cammeray Croquet Club



June 2024

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

Club Matters

Our grant application for shades beside the clubhouse has been approved, so we will be installing the shades soon.

New Shed: The Committee agreed to the purchase and installation of a Spanbilt G66 shed to be located in the gap between the existing shed and the soccer field change rooms. The shed will be used to store excess chairs and thus free up space in the clubhouse.

Pennants

The Open Handicap Team:



Michael Strickland, Joanne Brown, Graham Maynard, Neil Hardie



Margaret O'Brien



Peter Brown

They beat Edsacc 2-1; beat Marrickville 2-1; beat Killara 2-1; lost to Mosman 1-2. Their final match is against Manly in early July.

Mosman won the open pennants last year, and if they win their remaining matches they will win again this year.

The Bronze Pennants teams

Cammeray have two teams in the pennants, a blue team and a red team. Killara are the only other team in the competition, so it is a double round-robin with home and away matches.

Blue bronze team: beat Killara 3-0; lost to Red 1-2;
lost to Red 1-2



Bronwyn McGrane, Warren Yates, Mary Goldsack, Sue Nicholas

The Red Bronze Team



Rob Barrie, Margaret Barrie, Michelle Nixon, Malcolm Sheldon



Lucy Rees

The Red Bronze Team have so far beaten the Cammeray Blue Team twice – 2-1 and 2-1. They now have to beat Killara to win the tournament.

Other Tournament Results

Beryl Chambers: 5 players finished on 5 wins; Julie Thoms of Canberra won on hoops, with Robert Barrie second.

CNSW Ricochet Div 3 singles – Bronwyn McGrane came 2nd

Upcoming tournaments:

5-7 July CNSW GC Open Doubles – Rob Elliott, Rosie Landrebe

22-24: CNSW Bronze Brooch – Rob Barrie

27-28 July Win Dickinson Memorial Trophy – Joanne Brown

3-4 Aug – CNSW Selectors Invitation -Joanne Brown, Paul Skvorc

Notes towards a History of Golf Croquet (Part 1)

Ray Hall (2011)

From: [Golf Croquet History3.pdf \(bobcroquet.com\)](#)

Golf Croquet appears to have been invented as a garden party game in the 1890s, as part of the general commercial impetus of the period. This is still happening; the most recent version I have seen is labelled Crolf, using light mallets, small balls and four-pronged hoops: I have no doubt that there are many such.

The first development of direct interest went by the name of Croquet-Golf. It is described in leaflet of 1896 (F H Ayres Ltd; "The new game of Croquet-Golf: a game for garden parties") and features in The Graphic of 4 September 1897 , which has this introduction:

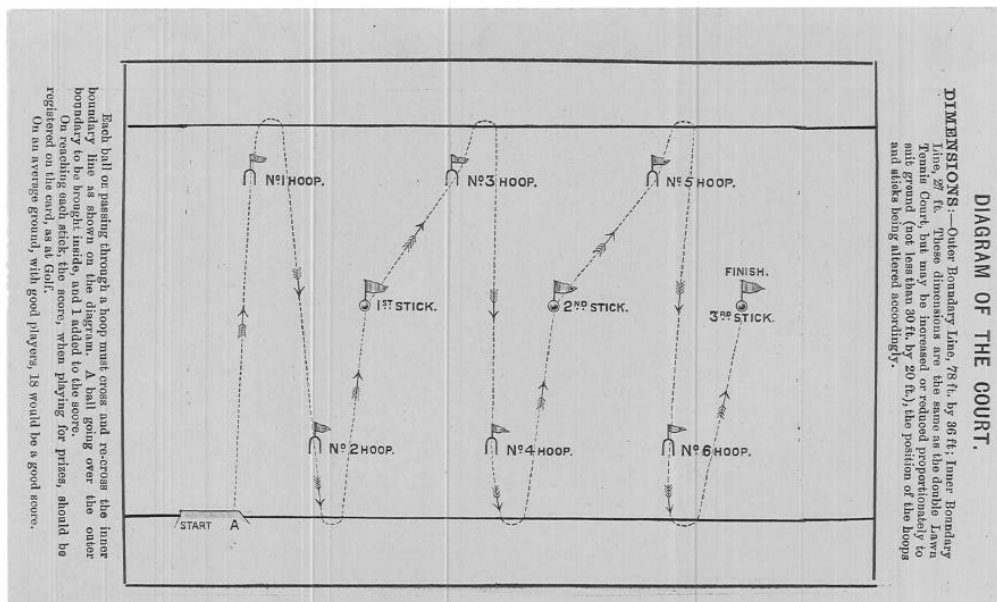
Of late the parties given at the big houses in Dorsetshire and some of the adjoining counties have occasionally had among the amusements provided for guests the new game of "Croquet-golf"

and continues (since clearly this is an important matter for the hostess):

Croquet has become scientific and serious even to tediousness and lawn tennis is far too violent exercise for all but the most enthusiastic. It is claimed that the game is brisker and more energetic than the former and does not involve the flannels and exertion of the latter, while it shows off pretty gowns to advantage, promotes friendliness and even flirtation, and keeps people moving; all of which things the wise hostess regards as important.

The Ayres leaflet proclaims as a virtue:

...though few gardens are not provided with an ordinary four-handed Lawn Tennis ground, it can be adapted to a lawn of almost any size and shape.



The layout is given in the above diagram. The aim is to play a single ball through each hoop hitting the relevant post as one goes, in as few strokes as possible. A photograph in The Graphic of an attractive party in Wimborne (but of too poor resolution to reproduce) is taken 1 CROQUET: A Bibliography 1999 from the finishing end. Although The Graphic states that the Major General had patented and registered the game, no result came from a search through the patent records. Nevertheless, only a few years later a somewhat different game, also Croquet-Golf, is described in Country Life (24August 1901). It starts in a similar manner to The Graphic:

SOME good genius, bored, as we may imagine without difficulty, by the scientific length and monotony of modern croquet, has invented a modification of the game, called croquet-golf, that is amusing enough and has merits as a pastime which croquet has not. It is not, to be sure, a classical game. It is a modern hybrid, but it passes the summer hours away without the vexation of spirit that has been known to attend croquet and is not unheard of at golf.

Thereafter, it is totally recognisable as Golf-croquet, even to the extent of introducing a precursor of the half-way law

... if blue were in the jaws of the hoop for which it was bound, and yellow, whose turn it was to play, had no chance of knocking blue from this position, then obviously it would be yellow's best plan to get position for the next hoop, giving up this one as hopeless. But these stratagems are distinctly forbidden, as tending to introduce an element that is "not golf" into the game.

The layout was the standard AC layout of the day, though the start was in the centre of the court, since it was necessary to hit the starting peg (the standard AC start was one foot in front of hoop one till 1905). What we do not know is whether this is an obvious adaptation of the Ayres game to the shape and layout of the croquet lawn with a change of name, or whether there was some, as yet undiscovered, inventor.

The game may well have been adopted by some as a practice game, but evidently there were those who felt it had competitive attractions. Thus, in 1913, Horace Crowther Smith produced **How to win at Golf Croquet**. Though quite a small book, with some of the space taken up by variant court sizes and layouts, it constitutes a perfectly good introduction to the nature and tactics of the game as we know it. One point of particular interest, in view of later development, is the jump-shot. Crowther Smith regards this as one of the more exciting procedures but remarks that some club secretaries prohibit it as likely to damage the lawn.

One wonders who had been playing in the preceding twelve years to develop tactics, and provide a market for this sort of book? By the 1930s there appears to have been further interest, by now in clubs as compared with the country house garden party. Crowther Smith produced a further volume **The Art of Golf Croquet** in 1936, a slim volume compared with **The Art of Croquet** in 1932.

There must have been substantial interest in GC by 1933 when F H Ayres proposed to the CA Council that its rules be standardised. Ayres, in addition to manufacture and sale of croquet (and other sports) equipment, was himself a croquet player. At the instance of Sir Francis Colchester-Wemyss, the Council were unanimously of the opinion that they should accept responsibility for standardizing the game, the matter being referred to the Laws Committee for report. The draft considered by the Laws Committee was prepared by Godfrey Turner who was a member of the CA, with a very low handicap.

In December 1933 the CA Council approved the new GC laws with one minor change and so they were printed in the 1934 Directory, and continued to be printed with the laws. They consist of only two pages with a third dealing with handicaps. Most paragraphs are written explicitly as modifications of the AC laws, and differ from the current laws in that they prohibit the jump-shot; require the ball to run a hoop in a single pass (i.e. no jawsing); and have a primitive version of the half-way law.

Next month we will see how golf croquet spread to other parts of the world, especially to Egypt.