



Cammeray Croquet Club

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

March Newsletter

Tournaments

Eire Cup



NSW team - Kerri-Ann Organ, Tim Murphy, Jo Brown, Jim Nicholls, Alison Sharpe, Stephen Pearce and Kate McLoughlin (Mike Gidding absent)

The series of matches between states was close-run. New South Wales was without two of its best players – Peter and Rosie Landrebe – so they were not regarded as a major threat. At first South Australia seemed to be the in-form team when they demolished Tasmania 19-1 in the first round, but they faded later. The match between South Australia was close, with the final score 10 games all, with NSW winning on hoops.

The critical match was Victoria against NSW, where Victoria just got home by 11 games to 9, ensuring their win of the cup with NSW second.

Outstanding performances for NSW were Stephen Pearce, with 9 wins out of 10 singles games, Alison Sharpe with 8 wins from 10, and Jo Brown with 7 wins from 10.



Alison Sharpe



Jo Brown



Stephen Pearce

5 and under Mixed Doubles

This was played at Cammeray in fine weather. Stephen Pearce and Kerry-Ann Organ were clear favourites, but in the semi-finals there were two close games – James Carlisle and Janelle Wilson had several chances to beat Stephen and Kerri before losing 26-22; while Jo Brown and Jim Nicholls narrowly lost to Peter and Rosie Landrebe 26-20. Kerry-Ann and Stephen won the final 26-16.



**James Carlisle, Janelle Wilson,
Kerry-Ann Organ, Stephen Pearce,
Jo Brown, Jim Nicholls**



Peter Landrebe



Rosie Landrebe

Mosman Bash

Cammeray was well-represented in this, as usual. In the top block, James Carlisle looked like winning until Chris Brown beat him 26-0 in the last game, enabling Larry Bryant of EDSACC to win on hoops with Michael Strickland second. David McGrane came second on hoops to Dennis Edleston of Mosman in the second block. In the fourth block Lucy Rees won with Rob Barrie second. Because a player dropped out at the last minute, John Fransen (a platinum player) played in this block (but without his results counting), but Lucy beat John 21-15, a great result.

Australian Men's Singles

No Cammeray members were in this. The final was between two South Australian, with Dwayne McCormick beating Simon Hockey.

Australian Women's Singles

Jo Brown was our only representative in this; she won her first round match, but then met the in-form Yuni Rowell, who went on to win the tournament. Jo reached the semi-final of the Y-event, but lost to Lois Kirk.

American Six-Wicket Croquet

Jim Nicholls, who was a professional croquet player in the USA a few years ago, was describing the game played by many in America. The tactics for breaks are similar to AC, but openings and setting up breaks are very different. Some of the rules are:

- Balls have to be played in turn – black, red, blue, yellow
- If you roquet another ball, it remains dead for two turns unless you make a hoop
- Play begins with each ball one yard in front of hoop 1
- Balls over the boundary are replaced nine inches from the boundary
- If you roquet a ball and hit it over the boundary, it is end of turn
- The final hoop (rover) is played in the opposite direction from AC

If you want to watch a game you can do so via : www.youtube.com/watch?v=GpuEY5sWV7Y

Notes on Practice

There is a wise comment by Reg Bamford (world champion on several occasions) that '*practice does not make perfect – it makes permanent*'.

If you are playing a shot badly, and continue to practice it, you will merely reinforce your bad habits. So if you are going to practice, make sure you are practicing correctly. Get another player to watch you, or look at a video, or analyse carefully what you are doing. If your performance does not improve, stop practising and get help.

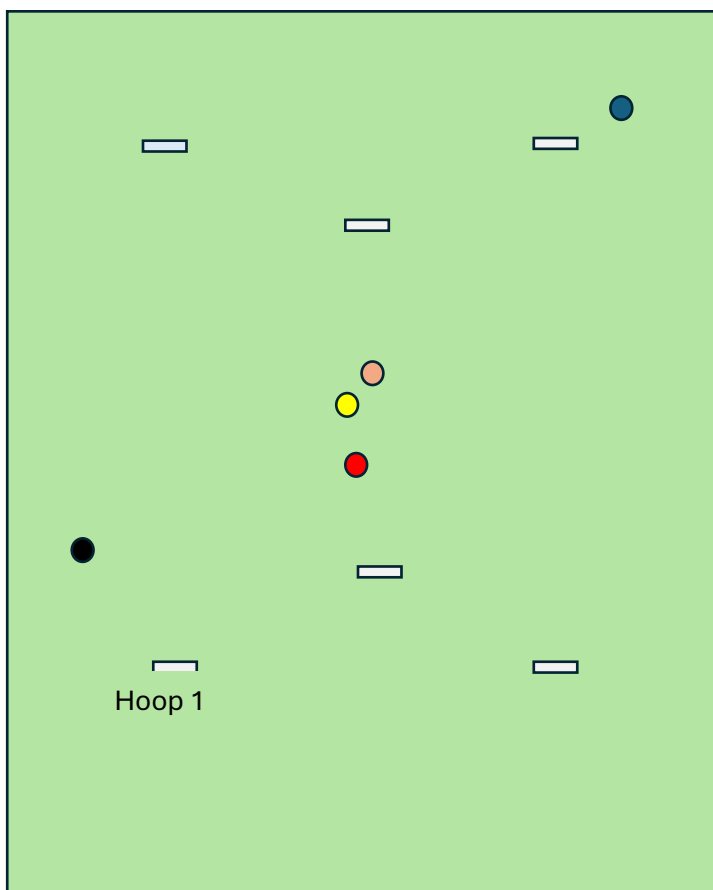
One of the things that a player has to develop if they are going to play in competitions is mental stamina. If you are only used to playing a single game of croquet in a day, the mental effort of concentrating for several games in succession is more than your brain can cope with, and you will lose focus. In training for competitions it is a good idea to play breaks non-stop for at least two hours to develop the ability to concentrate for long periods. The aim in this practice should be to develop the ability to focus on each shot (even the simple ones) over several games.

In the article last month on muscle memory, players were advised to take breaks in their practice, as this consolidates the learning. However, developing mental stamina does not follow this rule, and practice should be continuous.

Advice for high-handicap players by Neil Hardie

This is the first of a series of articles providing advice to players. They are aimed mainly at bronze players who have completed their introductory course and are playing regularly in bronze-level games.

1. What do you do when you walk on the lawn?
If you have a good chance of making a roquet –
 - Check which hoops your balls are aiming for.
 - Identify the ball nearest each of these hoops.
 - Select the hoop which has a ball nearest to it.
 - Aim to get a rush on that ball to a position close to the hoop.
2. When you are starting a break, it is usually difficult to make the initial hoop
Your main focus should be on making that hoop rather than setting out the lawn
Once you have made the first hoop you often have more options for setting up the lawn
However, if you can improve the position of other balls without endangering the initial hoop run, then do so.



Look at the diagram above. You are playing red and yellow, and starting your turn. Decide how you would play your turn, given the situations as follows:

1. Both red and yellow are for hoop 1.
2. Red is for hoop 1 and yellow is for hoop 3.

My suggestions for each of these are below.

(Note that a low-handicap player would probably play a different line – as you develop more skill in the shots, your tactics evolve).

SITUATION 1 – RED AND YELLOW FOR HOOP 1.

The aim here is to get a rush on the black ball towards hoop 1. This is not easy, as black is near the west boundary. When you are trying to get a rush, it is easier to set up the rush from a position as close as possible to the line of the rush (I will talk about this more next month).

We are best to play the red ball and rush yellow up towards hoop 2. Don't try a sharply angled cut rush to get it closer, as you will probably miss – just get it reasonably close. Then do a take-off to get in to position to rush the black. Allow plenty of room – aim at least a yard behind black, because you will still get a decent rush, but if you go past the black you have no rush at all.

Rush the black ball past hoop 1, then do a hoop approach putting black well past the hoop on the east side. Once you have made the hoop, this should enable you to rush black near the yellow ball and get a rush on that to hoop 2.

SITUATION 2 – RED FOR HOOP 1 AND YELLOW FOR HOOP 3

We could still do as in situation 1 and try for red to run hoop 1; but we have a ball close to hoop 3, so our chances are much better for scoring hoop 3 with yellow.

This time we rush red down towards hoop 4 – possibly putting a small amount of cut on the rush to get it closer to the hoop. Then we take off from red up to the blue ball at hoop 3. Because blue is close to the hoop, it is not so important to get a good rush – you can probably make the hoop even if you do not get a rush at all - we can be more adventurous with our take-off, and do a thick take-off to get the red closer to hoop 4.

Our hoop approach to hoop 3 should try to send blue well past the hoop and on the west side. We should be able to get a rush on blue after making the hoop towards hoop 5, and towards the red ball if it is still some way to the west of hoop 4.

Do let me know if you find this article useful; and you could suggest other aspects of croquet that you would like to be covered. Contact me on nhardie@ozemail.com.au

From Cammeray Golf Club Lauren Peake

We have just launched a new kitchen and are now serving delicious food and tapbeer for the first time in 5 years! We are very excited about this!

As our neighbours in Cammeray Park, we'd love to see how we can support the Croquet Club by letting your members know they are more than welcome at CGC for drinks/food and socialising – we also have boardroom facilities should you ever need them for meetings and AGM's etc.

If there's any other way you think we can collaborate do let me know as we'd love to support CCC

Insurance for Club Visitors

Members of affiliated clubs are covered by an insurance policy maintained by Croquet Australia. But what about non members? This includes beginners undertaking lessons, participants of corporate hires and friends that members invite to try out Croquet. Cover is now available for such visitors but is limited to 6 visits. After that they need to become members. Any visitor wishing to be covered under this provision of the policy needs to sign in each visit using the QR code displayed on the reception table. This will take them to a simple form where they enter their details (but it will reject them after the sixth visit).

Integrity in Sport

Sport Integrity Australia has developed a pool of resources on the issue of [Integrity in Sport](#). It covers what to do when you have seen, heard or experienced child-safeguarding, racism, cultural issues or discrimination in your sport.