



Cammeray Croquet Club



April 2021

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

Cammeray Birthday Tournament

by Michael Strickland



Ted Woodley, winner of the tournament



David Surridge, runner-up

It was a dark and stormy night ...

... well, not exactly, but Bulwer-Lytton's famous opening is still good for grabbing your attention.

In fact the Autumn weather was little short of perfection for the four days of this year's tournament. And it must be added that the lawns were in similarly glorious condition. We are very fortunate.

A smaller field than usual competed for the *Maureen Cope Trophy*, and for total prize-money of \$600, kindly donated by our old friend Mal Russell, of Mosman CC, in Maureen's memory.

Visitor entrants – Larry Bryant (Newcastle), Ted Woodley and Gerard Barry (Chatswood), David and Bernie Gibson (Manly), Ron Humpherson (Mosman) and Don Wright (Cooks River) – joined five representatives of the host club: David Surridge, Barbara McDonald, Peter Colquhoun, Marg O'Brien, and the writer.

The Order of Play ...

... began with four blocks of three, playing a double round-robin, followed by the now customary double elimination knockout – providing plenty of croquet for everyone.

The 'double elimination' (a form of *repêchage**) is a creature of the actuarial branch of Cammeray CC, and has met with widespread approval in recent years. There are of course those of us who can only go out, play, and wait to be told whom and where to play next. But the tournament 'Order of Play' did spell out very succinctly that after the round-robin games:

“Block winners and runners-up will have to lose twice to drop out in the race to the final. Third-placed players will need to win all their games to reach the final.”

And one ‘third-placed’ player followed those instructions to the letter, going on to win the final.

This was ‘handicap’ play, which shows up in the results, with many matches being won by only one or two points, and very few ‘peg-outs’. And several games were taken to a ‘golden’ point. The system clearly levels the playing field very well.

On the other hand, it can lead to overly defensive play by some lower handicappers, anxious to force their opponent into spending bisques, before starting on a break of their own.

(*literally ‘rescue a fish’, which seems peculiarly apt!)

And how it all unfolded ...

... or what we can remember of it! Matches flew by in something of a blur. Three 2½ hour games in a day can do that.

But it seems that the three players in Blue Block all managed two wins out of four, with Larry Bryant pushed to third place on ‘net hoop score’, while David Surridge and Gerard Barry, who were tied on net hoops, were faced with a ‘shoot-out’ to determine who finished first and second, and thus ‘who played whom’ in the first of the ‘knock-out’ rounds. Each of them shot at the peg from 10 yards and missed, but on the first shot from 9 yards, Gerard managed a hit, to make him ‘block-winner’.

Black Block produced a clear winner in Peter Colquhoun with four wins out of four, and the low-handicapper, Ted Woodley, managing only one win. Red and Yellow Blocks were won by Don Wright and the writer respectively, each with three wins out of four. Then the action started.

The ‘knock-out’ ...

... in the first round, four Cammeray players won through – Marg O’Brien beat Gerard Barry (15-11); Peter Colquhoun beat Barbara McDonald (24-19); David Surridge beat Don Wright (19-10), and yours truly beat Ron Humpherson (20-12). So things were looking very good for the home town. There had to be a Cammeray finalist! Two more rounds and David Surridge emerged as the man for the hour.

In the meantime, Ted Woodley was peeling off a succession of four good wins, to earn himself the other final spot. And, having done so, he proceeded to beat David 17-10, on an otherwise beautifully sunny Sunday, before a crowd which may even have reached double figures (in fact it was probably double that!). But Ted was a very worthy winner, who had pulled himself up from a sluggish start to the tournament (not helped by a Covid jab), while David played his best croquet in the earlier rounds, and just couldn’t recapture it in the final. Such is life. Well done, Ted!

The ‘Plate’ competition ...

... is designed to keep things going for those who finish third in their block, and thus don’t qualify for the main event, together with those who lost in the first round of the knock-out. Gerard Barry won two more games, to put himself into the final against Don Wright, but Don proved to be a ‘bridge too far’, and ran out winner (21-13).

So ...

... conversation over lunch on the final day left no doubt that this had been another very enjoyable and successful tournament.

The organising team of Sandra Colquhoun and Steve Miles did a magnificent job of keeping everything running smoothly, answering silly questions, and accommodating the players' idiosyncrasies.

Catering by Mary Goldsack and her helpers was first-class.

Alan Walsh deserves special thanks for arriving at dawn each day to set up the lawns.

And we must also thank referees Mike Hughes, David Stanton, Neil Hardie, and Warren Yates. One hopes they all received the traditional reward of tea and cake while on the job.



Don Wright, plate winner



Some of the spectators at the final



Gerrard Barry, plate runner-up

Cammeray Handicap Tournament

We got a splendid range of entries to this competition, with handicaps ranging from 1 1/5 to 20. Unusually for this kind of event, the high handicap players did well, with Peter Brown and John Potter in the first two places in block one, and Chris Brown winning the second block. Only Michael Strickland of the top players was successful, winning 3 out of 4 in the second block.

The final was between Chris and Peter Brown, and Peter had revenge for his loss to Chris in the Bronze Final earlier this year; the final was a dour affair with a couple of good breaks and a lot of defensive play, with Peter coming through with 15 to 12.



Peter Brown, winner of the Handicap Tournament



Chris Brown, runner-up

Welcome to New Members

The club is hosting a morning tea on Sunday May 2nd between 9:30 and 12:30. It should be fun and a great opportunity for you to meet those players you don't normally bump into, plus those new to the club who are still a little uncertain. We'll start with a short game of doubles, to break the ice, for an hour, then have refreshments and after swapping partners, have another short game. We really hope you can come along. If you can, then please rsvp to Malcolm@TheSheldons.id.au

Some of the members who keep the club running



Mike Hughes



Sandra Colquhoun



Alan Walsh



Margaret O'Brien



Joanne Brown

Mike Hughes is our highly efficient treasurer who looks after all our money; Sandra Colquhoun does a fine job organising all the Cammeray Tournaments; Alan Walsh is responsible for our lawns (widely considered to be the best in NSW), liaising with the brilliant groundsman from North Sydney Council, and he also organises the croquet equipment. Margaret O'Brien has just stood down as housekeeper after several years of managing all the supplies for the clubhouse, and has been replaced by Joanne Brown.

Orders for Clothing

the closing date for the current round of clothing orders closes on Monday May 3. There is an order form in the members area of the website which needs to be sent to sent off to Gail.Parrott gailp03@optusnet.com.au

New Laws for Association Croquet

A new edition of the laws for AC has been agreed, and will come into force on 1st July 2021. The National Director of Refereeing has been briefing the Examining Referees, and there will shortly be briefing sessions for referees and umpires about the changes.

The new laws are an improvement on the previous edition: they have been clarified and a useful glossary added. There are only a few actual changes to laws, the main ones being:

- * for those who cast, touching a ball in a critical position when casting is counted as a stroke, unless the ball has been marked
- * guidance has been provided for borderline decisions in various cases such as whether a fault has been committed, whether a ball is off the lawn and whether a ball is wired
- * rules are included for situations where spectators offer advice
- * rules are given for when clocks may be stopped during timed games (not for toilet breaks!)

Stephen Howes Honoured

The Australian Croquet Association has recently introduced a new category of referee, that of Senior Referee, which is awarded to referees who have shown a high standards and made a major contribution to the game. Stephen Howes is the first referee in NSW to be appointed to this prestigious role.

Stephen is an examining referee, and was the Tournament Referee for the World Championships in Florida a few years ago.



Club Championship

The Cammeray Club Championship is currently underway with a strong field – Alan Walsh, Mike Hughes, Rob Elliott, Steve Miles and Michael Strickland. Alan is currently leading with two wins, but Steve Miles has had a good win against Mike Hughes.

NSW Golf Croquet Men's Open

Peter Landrebe won this event, losing only one game in the whole tournament.

Playing Against Bisques

Neil Hardie will run a course on how to play against opponents with bisques on Friday 7th May from 2 p.m. If you would like to come to this, please let Neil know on nhardie@ozemail.com.au.