Cammeray Croquet Club

April 2022

Tournaments

April was a quiet month for tournaments, with COVID and incessant rain dampening spirits. However, the Cammeray Handicap tournament was played, as well as the Mosman Bash and the Club Championship.

Next month is busier, with the CNSW Men's Singles (with Alan Walsh, Peter Landrebe and Mike Hughes from Cammeray); David Surridge in the CNSW Gold Singles; Joanne Brown in the CNSW Silver Singles. There are no Cammeray entrants in the bronze singles or the CNSW Women's Singles

The Club Championship is proceeding, with four entrants. Alan Walsh has won two games with triple peels, while Peter Brown lost two games by narrow margins, Mike Hughes has two wins, and Steve Miles has one win. The final is likely to be between Alan and Mike.

Cammeray players did reasonably well in the Mosman Bash, narrowly missing out on first places. In the top block Michael Strickland came second and Steve Miles third; in the second block Margaret O'Brien came second; in the third block Joanne Brown came second, having lost her last game 11-12.
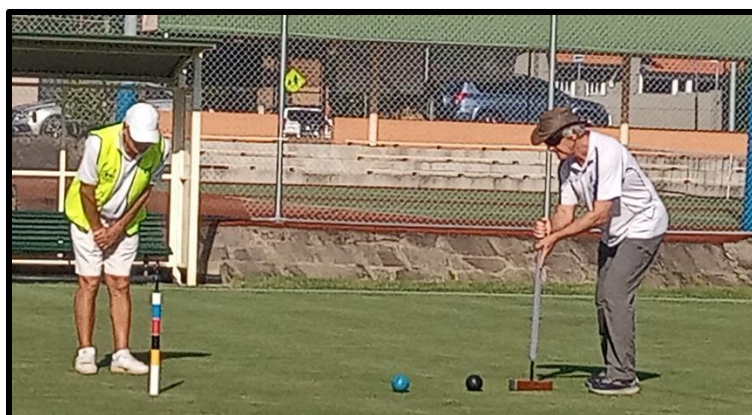
Cammeray Club Handicap Championship

This had eight players in two blocks of four. Chris Brown won all his block games, while Neil Hardie had a lucky qualification for the final when Michael Strickland beat an in-form Sue Eldridge-Smith.

The final was a high level – Neil took an early break round to rover (but messed up his leave), then Chris used two of his 3 ½ bisques to go round, peel Neil through rover, and miss pegging Neil's ball out by a quarter of an inch. Neil missed the lift, and Chris then took his second ball round with the aid of one more bisque to win 26-15.
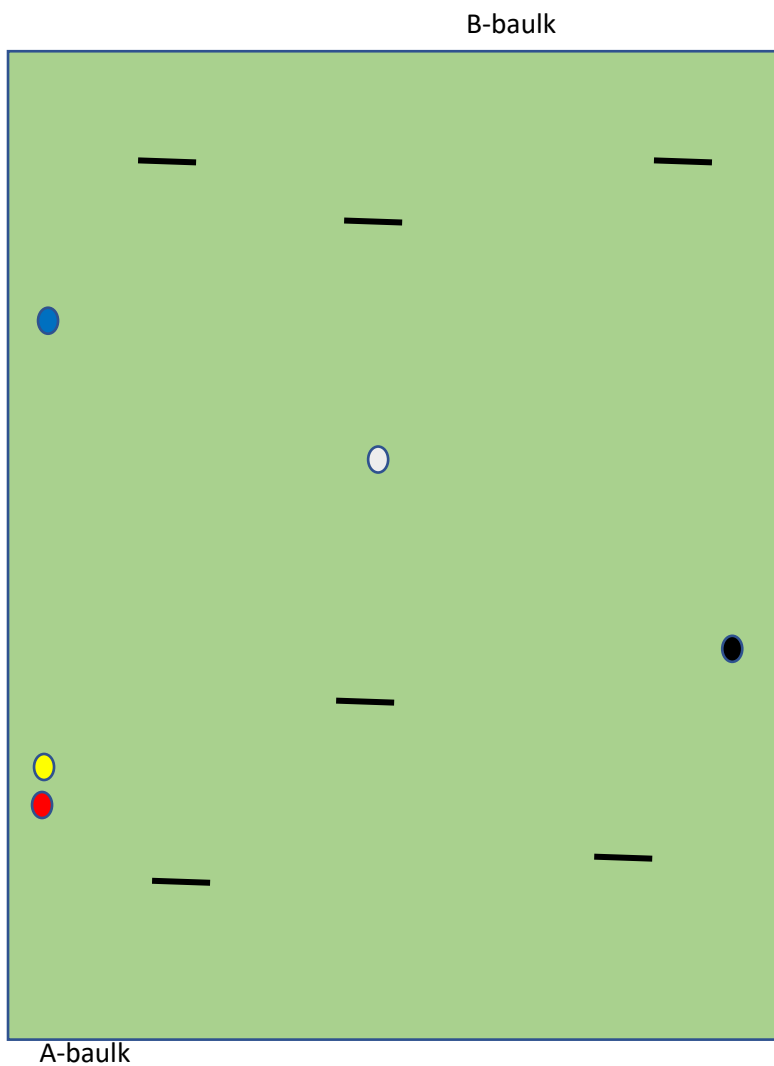

Before the final

Chris pegging out
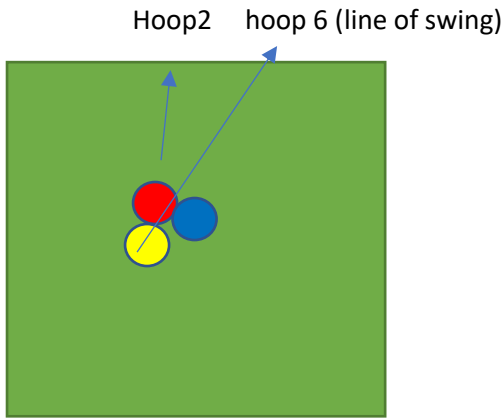
CORNER 1 CANNON:

This is the second of an occasional series of articles on cannons. The corner 1 cannon is one of the most useful standard cannons, and one of the easiest to play.

A corner 1 cannon can often be achieved from a standard opening. In the diagram below, black gone to the east boundary, red has set a tice on the west boundary, blue has aimed at red and missed, and yellow has aimed at red, missed but joined up.
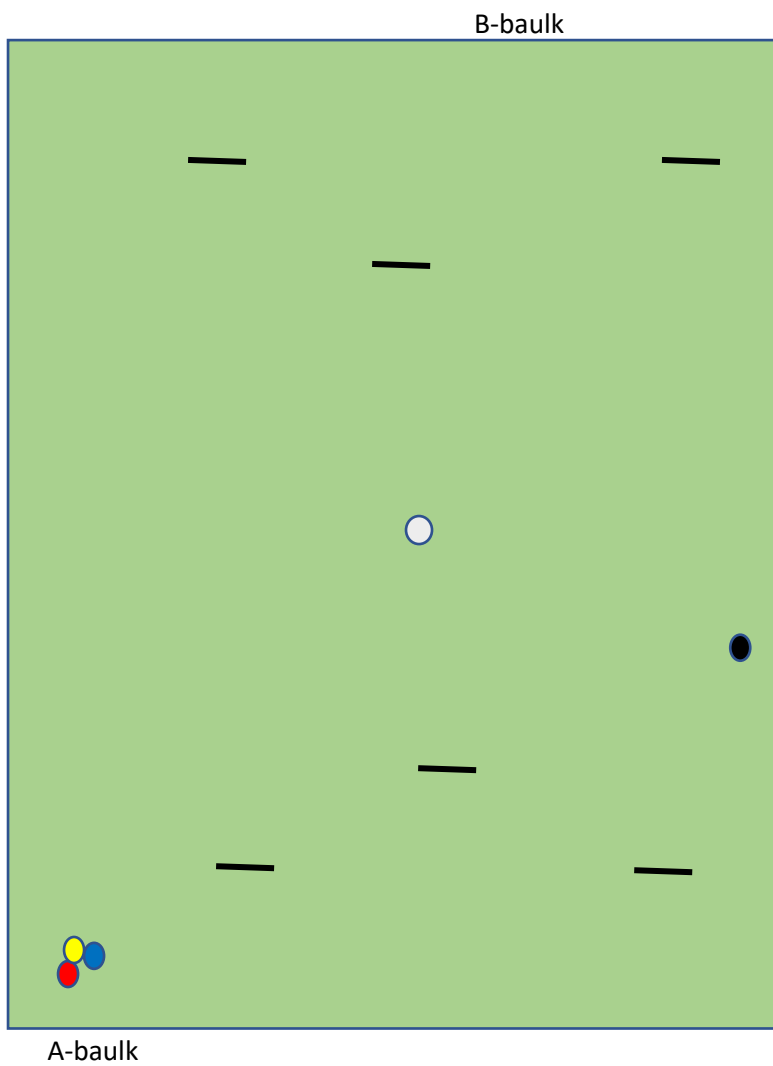
B-baulk

A-baulk

Now blue aims at yellow and red, misses and ends in corner 1. Yellow can now get a corner 1 cannon by rushing red into corner 1. With a corner 1 cannon, it is fairly easy to load hoop 2 and get a good position to run hoop1.

Placement of the balls for this cannon:

Hoop2   hoop 6 (line of swing)

The striker's ball and the croquet ball are lined up to point a yard to the left of hoop 2. The other ball is placed in contact with the croquet ball at right angles to this line. A drive is then played, aiming at hoop 6. This places red as a pioneer at hoop 2, while blue goes near hoop 1; when yellow takes croquet off blue, it should be easy to get into a position to run hoop 1.

B-baulk

A-baulk

It is possible to do a stop-shot aiming at hoop 1 instead of a drive aiming at hoop 6 – both methods work well.