



Cammeray Croquet Club



August 2021

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

COVID RULES

You may only play if you live within 5 km of the club. No car pooling between different households when travelling to the club.

Only two people can play on each lawn.

Players must social distance or wear a mask (Masks do not need to be worn while playing croquet).

QR code registration is required when you play (use the code on the clubhouse door)

Sanitise hands before and after you play

Shared equipment such as croquet balls and clips should be washed in soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after use

Hoops and shared mallets should be wiped down before and after use

The Clubhouse is closed but you may use the toilet

No coaching or competitions are allowed.

WARREN YATES



Warren Yates

We have been very fortunate to have as secretary for the last nine years such a competent, diligent and intelligent person as Warren. This role is a demanding one, yet all the business is processed with no fuss and great efficiency. Corporate hires, membership issues, the website, acting as the Public Officer are only a few of his responsibilities. These are on top of his role in managing a non-profit environmental company with \$15 million of projects underway.

Warren has kindly agreed to answer some questions about himself for the Newsletter.

Where did you grow up and study?

My early years were spent in East Lindfield – in those days a small community surrounded by pristine bush. A wonderful place to grow up in an era when kids were free to roam from dawn to dusk. I attended North Sydney Boys High and then did Science and Electrical Engineering at Sydney University, staying on to do a PhD in radio astronomy where I used the Parkes telescope to map background radio emission from our galaxy in parts of the sky hidden from northern hemisphere observatories.

You lived in Holland for a time and ended up as Professor of Telecommunications at UTS

Can you tell us more about your career?

I worked as an engineer for Philips in Hilversum from 1968. An interesting time to be in Europe with students rioting in Paris, Soviet tanks rolling into Prague and anti-war protesters on the streets everywhere. Philips was doing something quite revolutionary – digitising the links between telephone exchanges. My career in telecommunications, first at Philips and then at UTS, tracked the progressive digitisation of all information storage and communication from 600 baud modems to mobile phones and streaming tv. An exhilarating journey at the time but disappointing in retrospect to see how the dark side of the technology is being exploited

How did you start to play croquet?

My parents-in-law were stalwarts in the Pt Pirie Croquet Club in SA and regularly cajoled me into helping them top dress the club lawns when our family visited each Christmas. The game looked interesting and potentially enjoyable even for someone who was always last to be picked by team captains in school sport. On retirement I checked out Mosman and Cammeray clubs. The availability of Stephen Howes and Neil Hardie as coaches made the choice of club easy.

What have been your greatest pleasures during your time as a croquet player?

Playing in Pennants. Being part of a team in a very friendly competition and the feedback and suggestions from Dennis Faggotter after each game were very helpful.

You have been secretary of the club for many years; what do you look back on with most satisfaction?

I started as assistant to the indomitable Mila Kotala. She knew exactly what needed to be done and helped me to develop a specification for a web-based admin system that would make life really easy for the secretary. Mila's friend (and also a telecommunications engineer) Ron Wiebe coded the system and it has been a delight to use every since. It is very satisfying working on a committee where everyone takes responsibility for some aspect of the club's operation and just gets on with it with no drama.

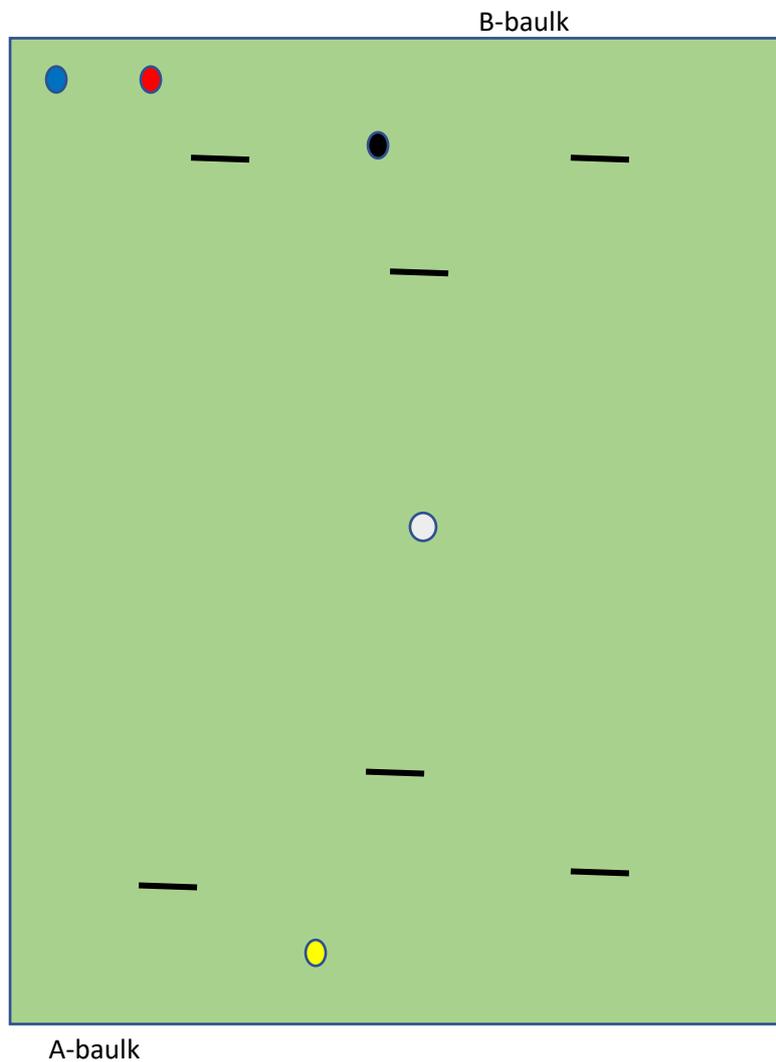
You now play a major role in an environmental company. Can you tell us more about that?

I was a councillor on Mosman Council from 2008 -12 but was not re-elected due to my role in introducing paid parking at Balmoral in order to raise funds for environmental initiatives (ironically my replacement councillors kept the paid parking but redirected the revenue raised). Having some time on my hands, I got together with another rejected councillor with similar values from Warringah Council and we set up a not-for-profit that would make it easy for mum and dad investors to finance solar on commercial buildings via fixed term power purchase agreements. We discovered that there is an insatiable appetite out in the community for this type of investment. You can see the details of all 56 of our projects and how they are performing at www.clearskysolar.com.au/map

TACTICS PROBLEM

Below is a situation to solve. Red is going for hoop 1. Devise a strategy to start a 4-ball break with red. Blue is in corner 2, and yellow is two yards off the south boundary.

- (a) If you are a gold + player, work out how to create the break directly.
- (b) If you are bronze/silver, create the break using one bisque.



Only use strokes that you have a reasonable confidence in executing successfully!

Send me your answers at nhardie@ozemail.com.au. Various solutions will be given in the next newsletter.

New AC Croquet Laws Mike Hughes

The new laws of association croquet came into force on 1 July 2021, so all games you are playing since then are subject to the new laws. As seems the norm when laws are tidied up, the law book is longer than ever. However there are definite readability improvements, a glossary of terms, better cross-referencing and a useful table of the limit of claims.

While there are several (very) minor changes along the lines of determining who to favour in circumstances where a position is too close to call (is a ball in or out, is a ball wired, for example), there is one substantial change.

The striking period is now when the striker takes his stance to play a shot (previously, the downswing of the mallet in playing a ball). And most importantly if the striker's ball is in a critical position, then if the striker's mallet touches the ball, that is the stroke. So for example if when casting you touch the ball, that is your stroke. Or if when placing your mallet behind the ball you touch it, that is your stroke. This is the same law as in golf croquet.

It is important to note that this only applies if the ball is in a critical position. If not the old rule applies: if you touch a ball it can be replaced without penalty. And a new rule has been introduced so if you touch the ball and continue with the swing and complete the shot, that is O.K., not a double tap (as it would be in GC). (It never was under the old AC rules as the striking period did not start until the downswing).

So it becomes important: is the ball in a critical position? The new laws define a critical position is where "a minor change in the position could materially affect future play". If a ball is in a critical position it can be marked, and then becomes not critical. Examples of a critical position are any hampered position, or where a player is attempting to hit a very small sliver of a ball, or is nearly wired, or (perhaps) attempting a hoop run.

Unfortunately there is no attempt to define "materially affect". Hampered positions, thin targets, wired positions are likely to be clear-cut, but hoop running positions may become contentious. Probably an attempt at a hoop run from a long way out, or a hoop run from very close but straight in front is not critical. But as soon as there is any angle involved a small movement can make it easier to run the hoop. I expect umpires and players will have their own idea as to what is critical. In a match it is probably best to ask your opponent or an umpire when attempting a hoop run "is this critical" and if either of you think it is, then mark it before playing a shot.

This will mostly affect players like me who cast - but even if you don't cast, take care not to touch the ball after having taken your stance.

The club has copies of the new laws if you want to read them in detail. Or they are online at <https://worldcroquet.org/croquet-information/association-croquet/the-laws-of-association-croquet/>

Hidden Delights at Cammeray Croquet Club

Steve Miles, President



Cammeray Croquet garden is bursting into life. Here are a few little gems you may not have noticed. Thanks to all the workers who help out and have made this possible.

The herb garden by the concrete path to the club door has a new arrival. It is a lemon grass plant. Yes, you can cut a stalk but pick a single leaf, curl it up, cover with hot water and you have a very refreshing pot of tea. Of course with the



kitchen closed you will need to do that at home. This plant will grow much bigger over the summer. This garden has always been a great place for parsley and it is now ready for picking as you can see.



The perennial basil plant is a haven for bees and flowers almost non stop.

This is a great plant to use for cooking your Asian dishes. If you look hard you will find a rosemary plant in the background. Rosemary loves to be trimmed. Unfortunately we have lost our curry tree next to the shed but we are trying to get a replacement to grow.

Of course the show stopper of the Cammeray Lawns is the orange trumpet vine and now it is in full bloom. Not as dramatic, but still beautiful in a more subdued manner, is a little pink "fairy floss" grevillea grown from a cutting taken in May 2019 before the pandemic. It is small but growing. See if you can find it.



Clothing

Following our last newsletter, here are photos of some of the clothing available from the club:



white T-shirt with logo



black hat with logo



white hat with logo



badges

Ordering is done by going into the members' area of the website, downloading the illustrations and sizes from the CCC Documents section, then downloading the order form and sending it to Gail Parrott.