



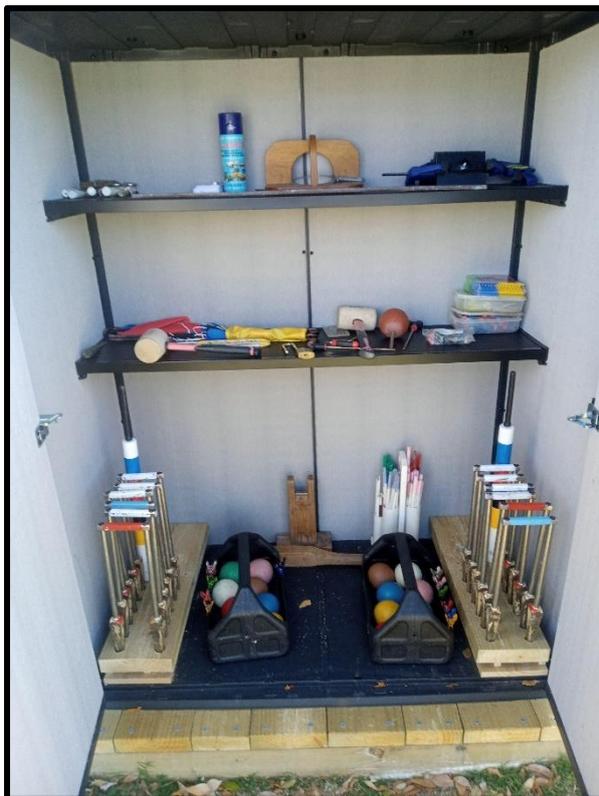
# Cammeray Croquet Club



**August 2022**

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

## **New box for equipment**



much easier to access than the old ones. We are grateful to David Stanton for all the work he has done in installing this box, and in fitting it out.



**David Stanton**

We have a new box to store hoops and balls and other equipment such as hoop lifters. It is

## **Tournaments**

### **Cammeray Platinum championship**

Block play in this is complete, and Steve Miles and Neil Hardie have progressed to the best-of-three final. Steve is already one ahead, as the block play match counts as the first game of the final.

### **Cammeray Gold championship**

There were only two entrants for this – David Stanton and Chris Brown - and the players have been busy skiing and having COVID, so the final is yet to take place.

## CNSW Gold Pennants

Only Mosman and Cammeray entered this, and it seems to have been abandoned.

## Queensland Women's Open Singles Championship

Three NSW players braved the northern state and played in this – Kerry-Ann Organ, Joanne Brown and Sue Eldridge-Smith. Kerry-Ann came second in the championship, and Joanne came second in the Consolation event. Our members are to be congratulated for entering this tournament!



**Sue Eldridge-Smith**



**Joanne Brown**

## Golf croquet world championship

This was held in England from 30<sup>th</sup> July to 7<sup>th</sup> August. It was won by the young American, Matthew Essick, who beat Robert Fletcher in the semi-final, then defeated Robert Fulford in the final. He was runner-up to Reg Bamford in the last AC World Championship held in Melbourne.

Unusually, there were no Egyptian players in the semi-finals, although eight qualified for the knockout round of the top 32. Only a few years ago the Egyptians dominated golf croquet, and for a long time the finals were between two Egyptians.



**Matthew Essick**

## SOME HISTORY OF THE LAWS OF CROQUET

Croquet developed in Ireland in around 1834, and came to England about 1857. In the early days there were few rules, and the rules varied from place to place. The hoops were typically 10 to 12 inches wide, and the croquet shot was played by placing a foot on the striker's ball and sending the croquet ball a considerable distance – preferably into the bushes nearby (as in gateball now). Presumably there was no rule at the time about end of turn if the croquet ball goes out.

In England, a Mr Spratt of Brook Street in London set down some sketchy rules, and then John Jaques, an ivory turner of Hatton garden in London, started to make croquet sets, and provided a set of 'directions' for the game with each set from 1864. By 1867 65,000 sets of directions had been circulated. An interesting aspect of these rules was that only side-style play was allowed.

Several other sets of rules were published, all conflicting, which led to local variation in the game. An inventor and unsuccessful entrepreneur called Walter Whitmore Jones decided to rectify this, and printed his set of rules in 'The Field' magazine in 1866, and these were adopted by most players.

In 1868 the All England Croquet Club was set up to manage and control the game, with its headquarters at Wimbledon (later to become the All England Tennis and Croquet Association). They published a modified set of rules in 1870, which became the 'official' rules.



These rules were very different from the present ones. The game was started with the ball one foot (12 inches) in front of hoop 1; the dimensions of the balls were at the manager's discretion; there were no lifts of any sort, including wiring lifts; and the lawn size was not defined. You could not play either ball at the beginning of a turn, but had to play the ball not used last time. There were six hoops, and two pegs (the change to a single peg occurred in 1922).

Wiring lifts were introduced in 1905, and a lift after 4-back in 1928, then the two current lifts (1-back and 4-back) in 1946. Between 1937 and 1960 there was a law that if an opponent improperly interrupts, he cannot score in the next turn; and from 1957-8 the use of a bevel edge was allowed.

The start at A-baulk came in in 1907, and from either baulk in 1924. There was an interesting wiring rule from 1906 to 1907 when a ball left within a foot of an upright could be moved one foot in any direction.

The laws continue to evolve, as is shown by the new edition of the laws published last year; and different forms of the game are developed as players master the current forms. Thus the 'super-advanced' rules are becoming more common in major championships. In this form, the opponent is entitled to a lift after the player has gone through hoop 4, contact after 1-back is made, and if the player goes through 4-back in the one turn, the opponent can place one of his balls anywhere on the lawn.

The editor would like to see some of these old rules re-introduced, such as starting the game one foot in front of hoop 1, and the wiring rule that a ball within a foot of an upright can be moved a foot in any direction.

(I am grateful to 'The History of Croquet' by D.M.C. Prichard for the information in this article).