



Cammeray Croquet Club



August 2020

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

COVID 19

The Office of Sport has received a letter from NSW Health entitled 'Minimising The Risk Of COVID-19 Transmission In Community Sports'. As a result, CNSW advises that:

As of midnight Wednesday 19/08/2020 all CNSW Events, regional carnivals and events, pennants and interclub competitions anywhere in NSW will/ must cease.

Play should be among club members only.

Scheduled AGM's or other meetings should be held via Zoom or similar and CNSW can help clubs who need support using this technology.

Fortunately, special permission has been given to run the CNSW Gold Brooch (at Cammeray), as all the players are from the Sydney region.

We wish to remind all players to remember to keep a social distance of 1.5 metres. It would be most unfortunate if we had to close the club because people became too casual and an infection developed.

Tournaments

There were four entries in the **Club Championship** – Stephen Howes, Steve Miles, Mike Hughes and Alan Walsh. Not surprisingly, Mike Hughes and Alan Walsh reached the best-of-three final; this is currently at one game all, but the last game is postponed as Alan has damaged a calf muscle.

In the club **Gold Championship**, Michael Strickland won the double round robin.

The **Platinum Championship** and a **Beginners' Tournament** will start in September. All beginners should enter the beginners' tournament – it is a wonderful way of learning new skills, the rules, and having a good time. There will be a session to explain more about the rules for all entrants on September 12th at 9.30 a.m.



Michael Strickland

The **CNSW Gold Brooch** will be played at Cammeray from Monday 31 August to Wednesday 2nd September, using both lawns all day Monday 31, both lawns Tuesday morning, one lawn Tuesday afternoon, one lawn Wednesday morning and both lawns Wednesday afternoon. There are four entries from Cammeray players - McDonald, Stanton, Howes, Strickland. Come along and watch some excellent play!

NSW Open Singles – Mike Hughes reports

The NSW Mens Open AC singles was scheduled for 3 days from 7th to 9th of August. There was a field of 14 players : originally intended to be played at Cooks River, the event was divided into 2 because of Covid travel restrictions, with 8 players in Sydney and 6 in Canberra. The forecast for the 3 days was dire, heavy rain throughout. In Canberra the forecast was accurate, and indeed the first 2 days were completely wiped out with the lawns underwater. They commenced play on Monday and finished the following weekend.

The conditions in Sydney were not as bad as expected. We did get rain in parts on Saturday and Sunday, and on arrival on Monday it was bucketting down, to the extent that the plate wanted to abandon. But it started to clear and the plate was changed from a round robin to a knockout (won by Rob Elliott), and the rest of the day was mostly dry.

The 8 players in Sydney played a full round robin of 7 games over Saturday and Sunday, with the top 4 to play a knockout on Monday, in conjunction with a plate. Despite the rain the conditions for play were excellent. The lawns remained fast and with the hoops set tight most games saw plenty of interchange. Cammeray was represented by Peter Landrebe, a clear favourite, plus Alan Walsh and Mike Hughes. There was nearly a major upset in round 1, with Peter needing to go to sudden death to beat Don Wright of Cooks River, the highest handicap player in the field.



Peter Landrebe



Mike Hughes



Alan Walsh

There were several games that featured 3-ball endings, always interesting. In round 2 Alan pegged Mike's ball out. Mike hit the lift and ran several hoops immediately. Thereafter both players had chances but eventually Mike missed a couple of mid-length roquets and Alan won 26-24.

Going into the final round Peter Landrebe and Ted Salter were sure to qualify, and Alan beat Ted and Mike beat Rob Elliott to edge Rob out of qualifying, so the Monday semi-finals saw Peter start one game up against Alan, and Ted start one game up against Mike. Both Alan and Mike won, so a third game was required. Both Alan and Mike had winning chances, but opponents hit critical roquets and Peter and Ted played the best-of-3 final. Peter won game 1 very easily, but Ted came back to win the next 2, finishing off with a triple peel (one of only 5 over the 3 days, 3 of them by Ted) to win the

Sydney section. The following weekend Stephen Richards won in Canberra and he and Ted will at some time play off to determine the winner.

There were 2 remarkable games between the Cammeray players. In the round robin Mike pegged out one of Peter's balls. As time expired Mike was box and peg, and Peter 1-back and peg. Peter rushed to 1-back, made it with no rush, but rolled to 2-back (a foot out, straight in front, from 20 yards!), made 3-back with a miraculous jump shot, then made 4-back from Mike's ball in corner 3 and finished to win 26-25. In the first semi-final match against Alan there was a near identical finish, with Peter needing to make several hoops with 2 balls after time expired before picking up Alan's ball near 4-back. Again he achieved this, and finally ran penult down to rover where the other 2 balls were, but finished flush against the rover hoop, unable to hit either ball, and Alan won 26-23. Peter pegged his own ball out against Alan in the last game of the semi-final, so of the 5 games played between the Cammeray players 4 featured 3-ball endings.

Congratulations to Ted Salter, who was clearly the form player of the 3 days.

Update: There are clearly problems in playing the final between people from Canberra and Sydney: Ted Salter has come up with an ingenious suggestion that it could be played as a kind of virtual game: Stephen Richards sets up a lawn in Canberra and appoints a referee there; Ted does the same in Sydney. After each break the positions of the balls are carefully noted, and the player at the other centre sets up the balls as recorded, and starts his turn. A fascinating prospect!

New shed

Members will have noticed a new shed up against the toilet block. This has been installed by North Sydney Council to house equipment for the oval. We had hoped to out our mover in there as well but it does not look as big as we had hoped and there is no access from our side.

