



# Cammeray Croquet Club



**February 2021**

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

## Your New Committee

The club AGM was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> February, and was completed with great efficiency in a short time. A new committee was elected, with three new members: Mary Goldsack, Kristen Kool-Clark and Gail Parrott. Steve Miles continues as President, Malcolm Sheldon is the new vice-president, Warren Yates remains as our magnificent secretary, Alan Walsh oversees our splendid lawns, Mike Hughes manages the money, Margaret O'Brien is the housekeeper, and Ian Lucas spends many hours looking after the beginners.

Ralda Kirton, who was the uniforms coordinator and helped with social events, has moved up the coast and is leaving the club; and Bev Westwood who was Vice President and social coordinator and joint kitchen project manager is leaving the committee. We are very grateful to them for all the work they have put in to keep the club flourishing. Stephen Howes is relinquishing his position after many years as chair of the handicap committee, being replaced by Michael Strickland.



**Ralda Kirton**



**Mary Goldsack**



**Stephen Howes**

The club is in a sound financial position: in spite of COVID and the kitchen refurbishment, we finished with a net income of \$1200.

## Joan De Botton



**Joan at the Christmas party in 2011**

Joan is the longest-serving member of our club, and has reached the respectable age of 94. She is resigning from the club and has donated her mallet; but she may come occasionally as a visitor.

Joan has had an interesting life; she was born in the Croyden Hotel as her parents were Irish hoteliers who leased the hotel. Her father was the youngest of eight of Irish farmers, so with no prospects for land he emigrated to Australia and worked his way up in the hotel business.

Joan was sent to boarding school in Moss Vale during the war, then got a B.A from Sydney Univeristy. She went overseas and travelled around, then was offered a job in Paris by the Economic Cooperation Administration set up to

administer the Marshall Plan (in which the USA helped countries devastated by war to recover).

However, her security clearance was delayed, so she went to England and worked for lawyers dealing with debt collection and divorce cases. Finally the security clearance came through and she went to Paris and worked in Paris for two years.

Her mother appealed to her to come home, so she visited a sister in America, then caught a plane back to Australia – one of a few people accompanying Bob Menzies (Prime Minister at the time). The plane had sleeping compartments and a waiting room outside the toilets.

Back in Australia she married (a Frenchman born in Egypt whose family were cotton buyers), raised three children, then got bored and took up Teaching English as a Foreign Language at TAFE (later getting a Dip.TEFL at Macquarie University). She was teaching foreign professionals, mainly English



**Joan in her younger days**

for Academic Purposes, and the student countries were reflections of the political turmoil in foreign parts – Chileans when Allende was overthrown, Czechs when the Prague Spring ended, Lebanese when the civil war raged there. In later years most students came from Asian countries. Joan is still friends with some of her ex-students. She became the Multicultural Coordinator, and says that for twenty four years she enjoyed every day of her work.

Joan moved to Cammeray in 1990 and took up croquet then. She served on the Committee for many years, and played in the Bronze Pennants. Warren remembers Joan making a spectacular break in a game at Mosman to win the match. She also won the inaugural Stephen Howes Trophy for the most improved player in 2007 (at the age of 80!).

She is still a keen bushwalker, and reckons that the croquet and bushwalking have kept her fit – in spite of two shoulder reconstructions, and a bad back.

#### **A note from the GC Sunday Group:**



**Joan's golf croquet group practising social distancing in 2020**

Joan de Botton – a remarkable lady! Wise, courageous, affable, and amiable.

Joan was a very accomplished AC player for many years. Fortunately for the Sunday afternoon group of GC players, about 4 years ago Joan decided to transferred her skills to GC and enjoyed

playing with “the young ones”. Joan contributed to special events/tournaments and always volunteered to help the catering team - she loved washing-up!

It is sad that Joan is not continuing to play croquet, and we will miss her on the lawns each Sunday, chatting around the coffee table and hearing about the many activities she participates in and enjoying her wit and wisdom. Over the years Joan related stories of her travels, U3A activities, visits to the Adelaide writer’s festival, theatre outings and there is always a family party or two in the diary. Joan is truly a remarkable lady.

## NSW 3 & Under Singles 2021

The first Croquet NSW tournament for 2021 was played at the enlarged 4-court Tempe headquarters over the weekend of 6-7 February. All players were impressed with the new layout, and Rob Elliott and his team at Cooks River Croquet Club should be very satisfied with what they have achieved.

A full field of 16 took part, playing a knockout consisting of singles games in the first two rounds, and best-of-3 game matches for the last two rounds. An exhaustive set of knockouts was played, with first round losers in the “X” knockout going into the “Y” knockout, and second round losers going into the “Z” knockout. Losers in the first round of the “Y” knockout went into the “W” knockout. In addition to a final for each knockout, a play-off also took place to determine 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> places.

The draw was arranged by placing the top two seeds (Stephen Richards from Canberra and Rob Elliott from Cooks River) into positions 1 and 2 in a standard 16-person knockout. Positions 3 and 4 were then filled by random allocation between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> seeds (Tim Murphy and Alan Walsh), after which positions 5 to 8 were filled, also by random allocation, between the 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> seeds, and finally the same procedure for the 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> seeds.

Only one first round game went against the seeding, with Don Wright (Cooks River) beating Mike Hughes (Camberay) 16-15, golden point. Two other first round games were very close, with Gareth Denyer beating Kerri-Ann Organ 22-21 and Alan Honey beating John Bartrop 23-22. The first three rounds were all completed on Saturday, with no round 3 matches going beyond 2 games.

Matches on Sunday were Stephen Richards v Rob Elliott in the overall final with Alan Walsh and Rosie Landrebe in the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> match. Stephen beat Rob 26-12, 12-26, 26-11 to take out the title. Alan beat Rosie in two games to finish third.

The “Z” final was a local Canberra battle, with Alan Honey emerging victorious over Tim Murphy 26-8, 24-26, 26-19. The 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> place match saw Don Wright beat Gareth Denyer 10-22, 15-12, 10-7.

In the “Y” knockout, Mike Hughes beat John Bartrop in two games to win the final. Meanwhile in the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> playoff Steve Miles and Kerri-Ann Organ decided that they had had enough croquet for the weekend after Kerri-Ann won the first game 26-20 and Steve won the next game 26-3.

The “W” final saw Ted Woodley prevail over Ron Buist 14-19, 10-9, 12-9, while the battle for 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to David Stanton over Nerida Taylor 11-9, 17-8.

As can be seen from some of the low scores towards the end of Sunday, many players were feeling the effect of playing 6 or 7 games over two very hot days.

**David Stanton**  
**Tournament Manager**

## Welcome back!

We are delighted to see some of our members on the lawn who have not been here for some time – welcome back to Sue Eldridge-Smith, Nancy Hickson and Sue Nicholls.



Sue E-S

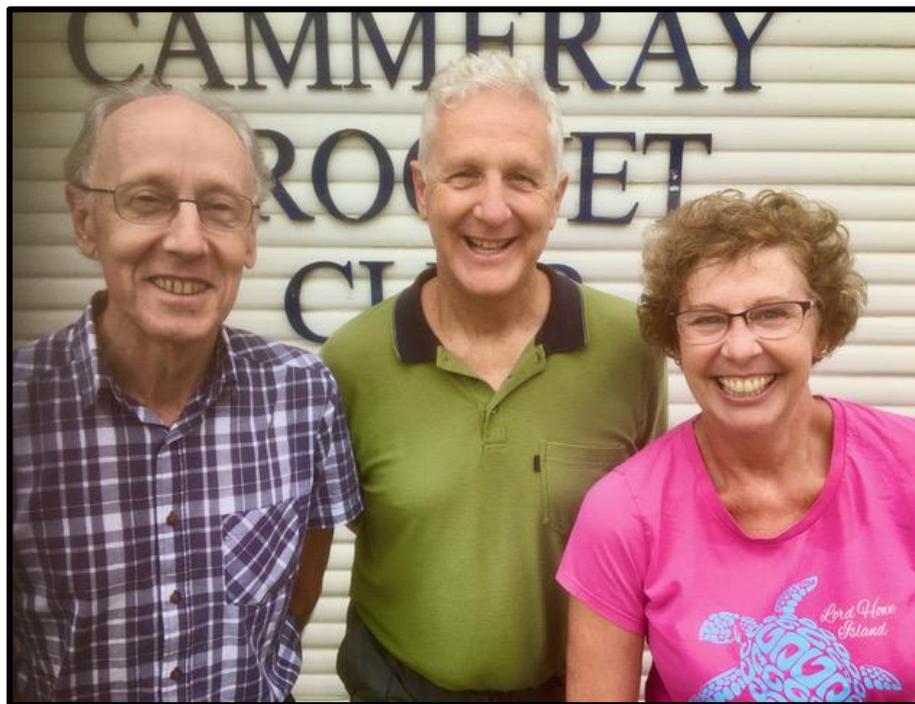


Nancy



Sue N

## An interview with THE BROWNS



Peter, Chris, and Joanne

### Conversations with Graham Maynard

**GM:** Welcome! I was hoping to have a cannon of Browns...

**J, C, & PB:** *(laughter, Peter in the background listening in)*...Ha, ha. Very witty...

**GM:** So obviously you know what a cannon is...

**J & CB:** Yes, yes we do...

**GM:** A cannon is something, that when it comes around, is a joy... (*laughter*)...and can offer many opportunities...however, I've got a good double...with another ball at pivot. So anyway, how did you all get into this game, and perhaps there is another game you play?

**JB:** I play tennis.

**CB:** Pete and I used to play golf.

**GM:** How did you hear about croquet?

**CB:** It was my wife's idea, really, she started us all in the beginners' group. Every year we have a large Christmas party, and part of that party is buying novelty gifts and my wife bought me a kid's croquet set and then we used it a lot in the back yard.

**GM:** Well you certainly play grown-up croquet now!

**CB:** And that was two years ago and the following year at the Christmas party we decided on ball games like *boules*, you know the French game, and we actually got a better croquet set. And then Pete said that there was this thing called the Dixon Advisory Classic at Cammeray.

**GM:** So, you came and had a look!

**CB:** And we were sitting over there by the tennis court watching the games, and we said "What's this bloke doing? Last time he played the yellow ball and now he's playing the red!"

**JB:** And why did he hit it way up there? I was sitting there Googling it...

**CB:** ...and look: the clips are now on the side, and gee it looked like fun and on a really nice lawn, and then I think you found...

**JB:** ...that they were having lessons here and so we all signed up.

**GM:** That's good Joanne. Now, I'm the youngest of three – who is the eldest and who is the youngest?

**CB:** Well you've got to try and guess!

**GM:** Ha! No, no, I'm the one who gets to ask the questions!

*(Laughter all round)*

**JB:** I'm the youngest.

**CB:** I'm the middle...

**GM:** and Pete's the eldest...?

**JB:** ...and we have an older sister as well!

**GM:** As siblings, do you enjoy playing against each other, given the so-called sibling rivalry?

**CB:** Well, there's probably a bit of sibling rivalry when we play. You want to do well, for sure. There's no doubt there's a little bit of that!

**GM:** Joanne, what do you like about the game?

**JB:** Ahh, makes you think, you're always thinking...I like the community! Every time we've played in a tournament...Pete and I played in a tournament out at Tempe...nine and over, I think it was...and everyone was so supportive, just amazing, even the really top players who were refereeing they really were encouraging, and it keeps you going.

**CB:** Yes I agree, the community side, when you come here it's really relaxing. And when you get a break going and you're in the middle, ah, it's just a lovely place to be!

**GM:** That's such a good attitude! Now, I think that already in this club you've won some competitions...

**JB:** Pete and I were in the final of the Beginners' and Pete beat me.

**CB:** And Pete and I were in the final of the Bronze and I prevailed in that one. Wasn't expected, thought I was the underdog...

**PB:** (*Off-mike, in the background*) No, I don't think so...ha, ha...

**GM:** ...so, I don't know about *that!* How do you see your future participation in the Club and tournaments?

**JB:** I definitely want to play more tournaments. I want to be able to beat these two!

**CB:** That's sibling rivalry! I think that Michael Strickland picked it up during our lessons when he said "I think I'm looking at three-quarters of the Bronze Pennants team." And then I thought, oh, I want to be in that team if the other two are in it!

**GM:** Well, that's great, and thank you all very much!

## NSW 5 & Under Mixed Doubles 2021

This tournament was played at Tempe headquarters over the weekend of 20-21 February. A field of 4 pairs took part, playing a double round robin over the two days. The weather was fine and warm, quite muggy at times. The new lawns at Tempe were playing well, nice and fast on Saturday, a bit slower on Sunday after some overnight rain, and with just a few surprising roll-offs.

The first round robin, on Saturday, was played as Alternate Stroke Doubles, and this proved to be a great success. The pairings were all made up of one player on a negative handicap with a partner on a handicap between 4 and 8. This made for interesting games, which were also very enjoyable for all concerned.

The second round robin, on Sunday, reverted to normal doubles, putting a bit more pressure on the higher-handicap players to play well. Some responded to this pressure better than others, with Liz Montague and Peter Landrebe finishing as runners-up to Peter Montague and Rosie Landrebe by the narrowest possible margin of 1 net hoop, both teams having 4 wins from 6 games.

**David Stanton**  
**Tournament Manager**