



Cammeray Croquet Club



February 2022

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

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held in sunny weather on 12th February, and was despatched with great efficiency in fifteen minutes. Steve Miles has served his three years as President (with great distinction), and has been replaced by Malcolm Sheldon. The finances of the club are in good shape – due partly to the generous agreement of North Sydney Council to forego a substantial part of the rent during the COVID period. A new lease has been signed at the current rate plus inflation.



The attendees of the Annual General Meeting

A new committee was elected quickly, as there was one fewer nomination than places.



**The new committee: Back row: Alan Walsh, Ian Lucas, Joanne Brown, Gail Parrott
Front row: Kristin Kool-Clarke, Malcolm Sheldon, Warren Yates. Absent: Mike Hughes, Mary Goldsack**

Tournaments

Tournaments have been coming thick and fast lately, with Cammeray players prominent in them. The first was the NSW Selectors AC Squad Tournament, which included Barbara McDonald, Sue Eldridge-Smith, Joanne Brown and Peter Brown. The rapidly-improving Peter – who won the Cammeray Beginners' Tournament in 2020 – won this event, and has given us a description of the tournament.

NSW State Squad Tournament – Peter Brown

With a weekend of hot days and blistering sun forecast, the 12 competitors for the AC selectors tournament gradually arrived at the Cooks River lawns for a 7.30 start.

2 blocks of 6 players were to begin the tournament following a brief talk by Mike Hughes who recommended that all players should consider entering the Australian Open for the experience. Somewhat flabbergasted, we headed to the lawns.



Peter Brown

Your correspondent managed to finish the day with 3 wins by juggling a win against a fast finishing Ted Woodley, who just ran out of time and hoops, plus another 2 grinding and fortunate victories.

Meanwhile in red block the skillful Peter Freer was impressive. At one stage your correspondent happened to be alongside Don Wright. With Peter Freer well on his way to victory against Don, Don turned to me and said "I've only had 3 shots!"

Sunday promised to be another hot day. Your correspondent managed 2 victories, with heat endurance being a determining factor in the results.

With my face in stunned mullet mode, I was to play Peter Freer in the final. Expecting to be shellacked and looking forward to sitting comfortably in the shade, enjoying croquet conversation while watching Peter Freer work his way around the lawn, I couldn't have been more relaxed. As we all know such an attitude often leads to uncharacteristically successful roqueting and hoop running. And so it was. Finding myself in a position to peg out, with Mike watching on as umpire, my roqueted partner ball took an off-break like trajectory and struck the peg. "An egregious error!" declared Mike. With the goddess Fortuna still favouring me, another opportunity to complete the peg out saw an unlikely victory. I thought to myself, "set faces to stunned".

Even though it was an uncomfortably hot mid-summer weekend, the gathering of croquet players for a tournament always makes for a most enjoyable and friendly occasion.

Other Tournaments

Five Cammeray people entered the 3 and under CNSW competition – Peter and Rosie Landrebe, Alan Walsh, Mike Hughes and Neil Hartley. It was nice to see Neil Hartley playing in a tournament again – he has been absent for some years. Mike Gidding of Ballina has made great progress recently, beating Alan Walsh in the quarter final and Jim Nicholls in the semi-final – but our Peter Landrebe was too good for him in the final.

In the CNSW 5 and under mixed doubles Rosie Landrebe (partnered by Stephen Richards) were runners up behind Alison Sharpe and Tim Murphy.

Forthcoming Tournaments – Open Singles and Eire Cup

Three exciting events will be coming in March: the Australian Men's Singles, the Australian Women's Singles, and the Eire Cup. The Eire Cup is the competition between the different States of Australia: due to COVID there will be fewer teams playing this year, but Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Queensland will be taking part.

Part of the Men's Singles will be played at Cammeray on 12th 13th and 14th March – if you want to see some of the best croquet in the country come along! Other venues for the singles events include Chatswood, Manly, Royal Sydney and Tempe. Cammeray players who will be competing are Mike Hughes, Alan Walsh, Peter Landrebe, Barbara McDonald, Sue Eldridge-Smith and Rosie Landrebe.

The Eire Cup will be played at Tempe and Royal Sydney for those who want a further taste of brilliant play.

Website Changes

Honour Boards

There is a new link on the LH side menu of the website: 'Honour Boards'. These record the results of all the past Cammeray tournaments and our past presidents. You can view the information either by honour or by year. Our existing physical honour boards will remain in place as heritage items. The old boards were expensive to maintain, not comprehensive, mostly out of date and running out of space. Now the entire world can view them and they will be instantly updated. Barbara McDonald did the archival research to compile the lists and Ron Wiebe (who now lives in Norwich UK) did the website implementation.

Registering for a Club Event

Up until now when you wanted to enter a Club Championship you either emailed the Games Captain or added your name to a sign-up sheet. The new booking system makes possible a better way - one which will enable you to see who else has registered at anytime from anywhere. In the top middle of the booking sheet you will see you can choose either **lawn** or **clubhouse**. If you select **clubhouse**, and go to the start date of the championship (as set out in the annual schedule of Club events published by the Games Captain) and downloadable [here](#)) you will be able to register in the event, just like you do for a lawn booking. Have a look at March 18 where you can already register for the Club Open Handicap Championship.

Do you know a Landscape Architect?

Many of you have come up with suggestions as to how the newly grassed area adjacent to Lawn 1 could be transformed into an attractive location for social events - both for Club events and corporate hires. The issue of Summer shade is of particular interest. The matter has been discussed by your Committee and it is clear that every proposal has its merits and drawbacks. A way forward could be to get some external advice in the form of some concept designs from a landscape architect. So, if you know one who might be willing to work with us, please let Malcolm know

Sun Zi and the Art of Croquet

There is a limited library of Croquet books in the Clubhouse - browsing through them is a productive way of rain interruptions to your Croquet. The library is located around the corner from the entrance door. A recent addition is a copy of Sun Zi and the Art of Croquet - Every Players Companion authored by our very own Graham Maynard. Graham has donated a signed copy for your browsing enjoyment. The book has been well received both in Australia and internationally - indeed the print run is nearly exhausted. The good news is that a second edition with additional input is available on-line - as are the last few copies of the print edition. Contact graham.maynard@bigpond.com for details of how to order.