



Cammeray Croquet Club



February 2020

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

EDITOR: The Newsletter now has a new editor: Michael Strickland has done this task wonderfully well for the last five years, and has been pleased to hand it over to Neil Hardie.

Neil started the newsletter around 2005: in those days few members were on email, and a large part of the work was printing and folding the newsletter and posting it out.

AGM: The club Annual General Meeting was held on 8th February. The club is in a strong position, but we need to continue to encourage new members to take up the game. Sue Eldridge Smith retired from the committee – we are extremely grateful for her splendid service over the past few years in catering. Sandra Colquhoun is also retiring after a very successful time as games captain, but will stay on until a replacement is found. Malcolm Sheldon, a new member, was elected to the committee to represent newcomers to the club.

THE DIXON: The main event of the last month was the Dixon Advisory Classic. This attracted a great field, with twelve of the sixteen players having played in the World Championship a couple of weeks earlier. We were particularly pleased to get Robert Fletcher, back at number one ranking in the world, his brother Malcolm, who has not played enough games to be ranked, but will be number four when he has; and Stuart Lawrence from the USA. Other inter-state entrants were the ever-colourful Callum Hyland, Kevin Beard, David Johnston, Alan Honey and Kerry-Ann Organ.



Robert Fletcher



Malcolm Fletcher



Stuart Lawrence

There was a feast of brilliant croquet – but there was a certain inevitability about the result. Robert Fletcher went through undefeated, and only conceded hoops to his brother; while Malcolm only lost two games, both to Robert. The final was a dazzling display of amazing hitting and unusual tactics, with Robert prevailing 26-7. Our own Peter Landrebe reached the Brown Knockout to decide who played Robert in the final, and lost to Malcolm 26-13. Kevin Beard won the plate.

Our thanks go the David Stanton for his tremendous efforts in organising the event, Bev Westwood and her team of cooks and helpers in the kitchen (Margaret O'Brien, Georgie Ofner, John Clayton, Lucy Rees, Gail Parrott, Di Loveday, Jan Thomas, Malcolm Sheldon, Margie Hughes, Jen Hodges, Kerry Phillips, Steve Miles, Pamela Hardie). We are also grateful to Stephen Howes as tournament referee (just after his marathon refereeing efforts at the World Championship), and referees Michael Strickland, David Stanton, Bob Green, Jim Hicks, Neil Hardie, Ron Humpherson, Steve Miles, John Bartrop).

More photos from the Dixon:



Robert does the rover peel going to 3-back



Peter Landrebe plays a roll, watched by Rosie



Mike Hughes rushes



Robert Fletcher lines up a shot



Kerry-Ann Organ with Callum Hyland



Rob Elliott



Kevin Beard



The audience for the final

We thank our contributors to the Dixon – Dixon Advisory, Backvintage Wines and Northbridge Pharmacy

Sadly, our major sponsorship from Dixon Advisory is in doubt, so we may have to look for a new sponsor of this event.

The World AC Championships

The World Championships for AC were held in Melbourne from February 15th to 23rd. The Cammeray members who participated were Peter and Rosie Landrebe, Alan Walsh and Rob Elliott. Peter played brilliantly in the block, winning all his matches, including a great win over Robert Fletcher. However, in the first round of the knockout he was beaten by one of the new young players, Harry Fisher of England. Alan Walsh had a fine win over Jose Riva, the world number 3; Rob Elliott had three wins in his block; while Rosie had three wins in the plate block and nearly progressed to the plate knockout.

A feature of the event was the impressive performance of a number of young players. Matthew Essick (21) of the USA beat Robert Fletcher in the semi-final; Ed Wilson of Australia reached the semi-final against Reg Bamford; and there was impressive play by Logan McCorkindale of New Zealand and Bill Hadden of Scotland. However, the fifty-four year-old Reg Bamford prevailed in the final, winning 26TP-12, 14-26, 26TP-9, 26TP-0.

I refereed the match between James Death and Bill Hadden; James set up for a sextuple (going to 1-back, cross-wiring opponent balls at hoop 1, and retiring to corner 3), and Bill hit the 'tea-lady' (i.e. from hoop 1 to corner 3). He failed to get a break going, so James set up again for a sextuple, and Bill roqueted the leave again, going on to win 26-12.

Stephen Howes and I refereed at the championships – Stephen for the full nine days, I for four days. This was hard work – some days we were refereeing for twelve hours with only short breaks, and looking after four games on two lawns.

Other Competitions:

Sandra organised a popular hi-lo tournament at Cammeray on Thursday evenings from November to January (with a long break for lawn refurbishment). It was a great learning experience for our beginners to play with more experienced players. The winner was John Clayton, while the joint runners-up were Sandra and Peter Colquhoun.

The CNSW 3 and under tournament was held 8th to 9th February with 6 of the 15 entrants from Cammeray (Peter and Rosie Landrebe, Mike Hughes, Rob Elliot, David Stanton, Barbara McDonald). Sadly, the final was between two Canberra players, with Tim Murphy beating Alan Honey.

Enter a Tournament!

Any serious croquet player should enter tournaments. Tournaments are a great way of improving your game, learning the laws, and having fun. A good tournament to start on is the CNSW Bronze Singles to be played at Killara from 27th to 30th April. Go to the CNSW website <https://croquet-nsw.org/events.html> or talk to David Stanton about what is involved.

Other competitions which are coming up soon are the Mosman Bash 20th -22nd March <https://www.mosmancroquet.org.au/> and the Cammeray Birthday Tournament (for handicaps 12 and under) 30th April to 3rd May. Entries for the latter are full, but there may be drop-outs.