



# Cammeray Croquet Club



**January 2021**

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

## From The President

Now the Christmas New Year rush is over it is time to get back to playing croquet. For many of us Christmas was without family member we would normally see but it made it more important to enjoy the time with those who were with us. Your editor, Neil Hardie was so relaxed from Christmas that when he returned, he forgot to bring his mallet, but of course proceeded to play very well with a borrowed club mallet.

We were hoping to be able to have a fun day on January 31, but the Committee preferred to defer that event. Our AGM will be on February 20 (note the change of date due to the CNSW doubles event being held). Our AGM will be held outside and socially distanced. There will also be a Zoom option for those who prefer this. If you would like to serve on the Committee and haven't yet told me, please let me know.

David Surridge has agreed to be our First Aid Officer. We have bought a new First Aid Kit which is kept with the old kit. It fits onto a small plastic container, but David assures us it has all we need. Alan Walsh recently tripped over a rope incurring quite a range of small cuts and abrasions. Barbara McDonald was able to treat him using our old kit but that prompted us to think that an update was needed.

Please remember that we have a club defibrillator. Usually, it will be quicker to take the defib to the patient rather than the other way around. Of course, the patient cannot be lying in water or near flammable liquids (move them if they are) as the defib involves an electrical spark. All you need to do is turn it on and follow instructions.

And finally, and especially if you are a new member, please remember Twilight Croquet on Monday Nights (byo drinks and nibbles for the time being) as well as all player handicap sessions on Tuesday and Friday at 9am. There is plenty of room for new faces.

Steve Miles

## Cancellations and Deferrals

As COVID persists, there have been several changes to events: the Cammeray Fun Day on the 31<sup>st</sup> January is postponed; and the Men's and Women's Open and the inter-state Eire Cup which were due in Sydney in March (some of them at Cammeray) have been cancelled.

## Welcome to New Members Warren Yates (secretary)

A warm welcome to the 13 new members who have joined our Club over the last 12 months.

Joanne Brown, Chris Brown, Peter Brown, Susie Curtis, Michael Darley, Chris Gingell, Mary Goldsack, Madeleine Gray, Georgie Ligertwood, Barry Matheson, Liz Nash, Barbara Potter, Heather Sherlock

Had it not been for COVID we would have enjoyed meeting you all in person at our traditional new member welcome event. Fortunately our AGM and presentation event is coming up on Saturday February 20 so we really hope you will all be able to attend, as this is the one time in the year (apart from the Christmas party) when everyone gets together. You might even consider volunteering to be on our Committee. Only eight of the existing Committee are standing again and we need ten on the Committee. The perspective of members who are just beginning their Croquet journey would be of great value.

New members will be warmly welcomed at playing sessions on Monday evening (followed by self-catered wine and cheese), Tuesday afternoon, Thursday afternoon and Saturday afternoon. So don't be shy about turning up (after registering on the booking sheet of course). Your game opponents will be happy to give you advice, bisques and even mulligans - or not, your call. We were all beginners once.

## An interview with STEPHEN HOWES



## Conversations with Graham Maynard

**GM:** Stephen, you've seen a lot of croquet and we'll talk about that, but I'd just like to remind you going back to 2004: Cindy and I were listening to ABC Local Radio's "What's On" at about five to nine and we heard the dulcet tones of the someone from the Cammeray Croquet Club advertising an open day at Cammeray, and that was you!

**SH:** Right! And here you are 17 years later!

**GM:** You were President at the time and you trained us. Then you served another year after Neil Hardie's term. Now tell me: how, why and when did you get into croquet?

**SH:** OK. When I was working, we had a Partner's meeting at the RACV Country Club in Healesville in Victoria and while most of them played golf some of us didn't and they had a croquet lawn set up so we picked up a very old copy of their rules, and of course you can't you can't play the game by

reading the rules, but we had a hit around and when I retired in 2000 I decided that I would like to take the game up.

**GM:** Good! So, you joined Cammeray first...

**SH:** Oh yes, always been a Cammeray member.

**GM:** And it's taken you to a lot of places in Australia and around the world, can you tell me about that?

**SH:** Well, it's taken me to places in Sydney and to Cairnlea in Victoria, which is the centre of the Victorian Croquet Association where they have 12 lawns...which is quite a lot...so a number of Australian championships are played there and I also went to Florida.

**GM:** And what were you doing in Florida, were you playing?

**SH:** (Laughs), no, I was appointed the Tournament Referee for the World AC Championships and I was required to find another three or four Refs, which isn't very many when you've got 12 lawns plus more elsewhere. Because they didn't have lawn-setters we were also required to set up all the lawns and continue to monitor the hoops, which unlike our Quadways kept needing re-setting to the precise width, as well as refereeing. So, we were there from dawn to dusk! I might add though, it is a great privilege to referee at such a tournament and to watch some of the world's top AC and Golf players plying their craft.

**GM:** You are a senior Ref in both Golf and AC?

**SH:** Ah, umm, I am a Golf referee, I wouldn't say senior although I have refereed in two Golf World Championships, yes.

**GM:** Do you have a preference for either form of croquet? You seem to be at home with both.

**SH:** Well, one has to appreciate that the games are different from each other. The Association game is a technical game, which requires a good technique to play. Golf croquet is a tactical game in which your opponent will move a ball to a place which a moment ago you were planning to do, so you have to change your tactics. AC is technical and Golf is tactical. Both have their place.

**GM:** In about ten words or a few more, what would be your best advice for new players?

**SH:** I think that the right advice is to find a good coach, practice what the *coach* tells you to do and *not* what you *think* you're going to do. So, practicing...as you have been taught...is I think, the best way to put it. It's hard to do, I must say, because you get on there and you are on your own and you think "Oh, if I do this..." and then "Oh, that didn't quite work!", and the reason is that you are not following what you were told!

**GM:** Thank you very much, Stephen!

**SH:** Thank you.

## Croquet Videos for Beginners from Malcolm Sheldon

I have found a series of 8 videos on Youtube, done by the Basingstoke Croquet Club, which I think are really useful for beginners. They start from basics and work up through the various techniques.

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=AC+coaching+module](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=AC+coaching+module)

(There is also a set of videos for golf croquet on the website.)

## The Gardens by Margaret O'Brien



Once upon a time there was only bare earth at the base of the African Olive trees. Then a few years ago Evelyn Humpherson wanted to bring along some plants from her garden. Then I added to it by getting some free native plants from North Sydney Council where I do volunteer work with their Balls Head Bushcare Group.

With the assistance of regular watering by Lucy Rees the garden has progressed slowly but the recent rain has given it a boost along.

### Margaret O'Brien in front of the garden

We also have a native garden along the tennis club boundary which includes our wonderful flowering gum – this was started by Neil Hartley. The ground covers are a native geranium & Commelina ( the one with the blue flowers) and also a native. This is often confused with “Wandering Jew”( proper name is Tradescantia “Trad” for short) which has a white flower and is an introduced weed. The yellow flowered scrambling vine is native hibbertia scandens. There is also the Herb Garden which Steve mentioned in last months' News Letter which is there for all members' use.

Anyone interested in helping with weeding and watering please contact me. Margaret O'Brien: 0412750078 or [margobrien@optusnet.com.au](mailto:margobrien@optusnet.com.au)



Lucy Rees