



Cammeray Croquet Club



July 2021

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

The Lockdown

The lockdown continues – so there has been no tournaments and little croquet played.

The current rules for playing croquet at Cammeray are as follows:

Members can use the lawns for exercise in one hour bursts. That exercise can take the form of practice or a game with one other person provided no more than two people are sharing the lawn.

Windows in which this exercise can take place are 9-11 a.m., 11-1 p.m., 1-3 p.m., 3-5 p.m. and after 5 p.m.

As we have two lawns up provision has been made for 4 people to book into each window, but they should socially distance at all times, otherwise wear a mask. There is no restriction on how many bookings a person can make in a week.

If a pair of members have booked into one of the windows and they want to play a short game, they need to contact each other to agree on a start time.

The Clubhouse is closed.

Before and after a practice/game the hoops, balls and clips should be cleaned using the cleaning materials provided.

Mentors required for beginners

Ian Lucas is looking for members who are willing to be mentors for beginners graduating from the beginners' course. The idea is to give the beginner more exposure to game playing so they improve their understanding of strategy and stroke making to the point that they will be able to attend the regular Bronze sessions. The mentoring sessions can be arranged at mutually convenient times either in small groups or one-on-one. These are not necessarily regular events, but more likely as the need arises. If you would like to help, please let Ian know by email ianlucas8@bigpond.com or phone/text 0408 013 565.

Working Bee

The planned working bee for the 4th July was postponed. The current list of things to do is:

Paint the seats

Wash the outside

Paint the window frame where the new glass was installed

Cut back the olives

Repair broken lettering

Shade material for the Shelters

If you want to add to the list please email stevemiles@hotmail.com.au.

Our President, Steve Miles

Our president is not only a highly effective president of our club, he is also a very good croquet player (handicap 1.5), a referee, treasurer of Croquet New South Wales and active in surf life-saving. He was awarded the North Sydney Older Citizen of the Year in 2019 for his community work. It is an impressive list of activities! He also lives across the road from the club, so if hoops are left out or lights left on or gates unlocked, it falls to Steve to fix it.

He was kind enough to answer some questions about his background for this newsletter:



Steve playing in the 2020 Dixon Classic

Where did you grow up?

I am a Central Coast boy, born in Gosford Hospital but I moved to the Northern Beaches when I got married. We moved to the local area in 2010 although our children moved into our Neutral Bay unit in 2001 when we left for Asia. They allowed us to stay there when we visited and we became attached to the local area and the convenience of everything.

What did you do before retirement?

I was an actuary (yes, another one) I spent my last ten years working in Asia. In 2009 my wife said, "This is my last year in Asia, you might like to think if it will be yours". We saw an old run-down terrace house for sale in Neutral Bay, unknowingly just across the road from Cammeray Croquet Club

Why did you take up croquet?

I didn't have the patience for golf and tennis, and tennis seemed to be too organised. So croquet was the only activity left across the road

What achievements/events have given you greatest pleasure in croquet?

There is no greater pleasure than approaching a shot and thinking "I know what to do, I have done this in practice". Being an actuary I love the way that Croquet is always a balance of risk and return. I have had my share of tournament wins but my most memorable moment was one when I first beat my original instructor, Neil Hardie!

What do you spend most time on as President?

Co-ordination and taking out the garbage bins

- What are your main achievements as President?

A president should concentrate on having the right team and I can say we do. Each member at Cammeray steps up when asked and does their job with a minimum of fuss. As Alan Walsh says we run so well because nobody on the committee wants to be on the committee.

- What else do you do?

I am Croquet NSW treasurer and a life member of Mona Vale surf club, still doing patrols after more than 50 years. I also volunteer with North Sydney Council bushcare, museums and am Chair of the local Parks Precinct Committee

Anything else of interest?

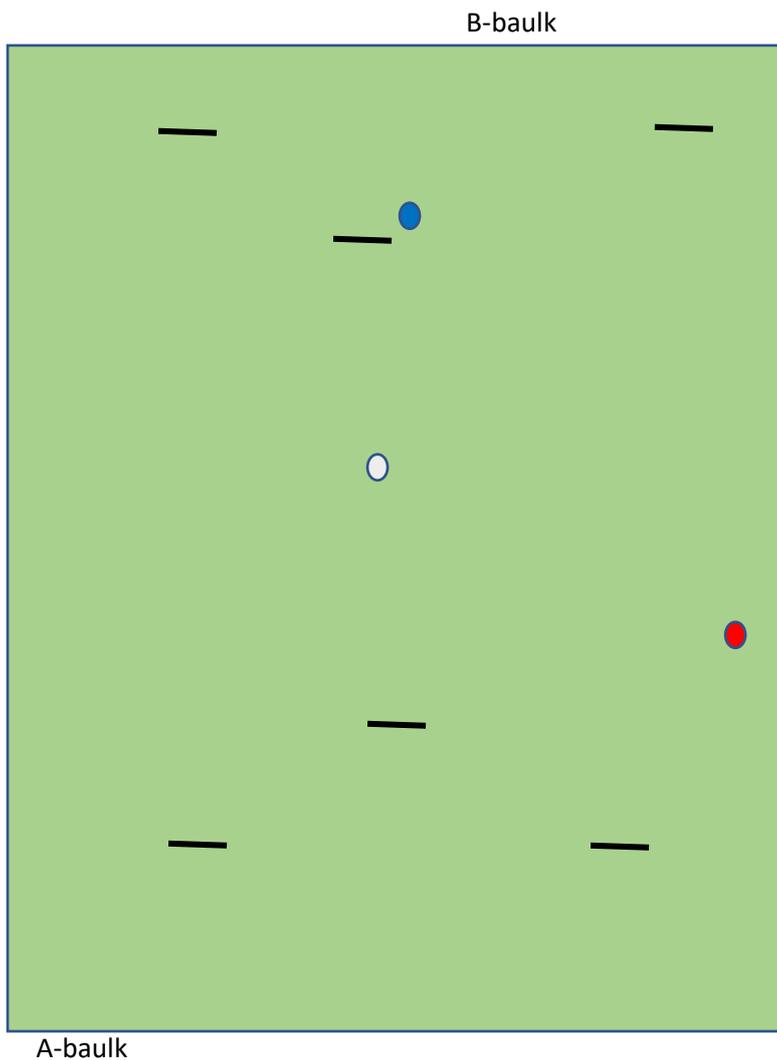
Gardening is my favourite pastime and I garden by the phases of the moon, planting just after the first crescent appears and stopping when the moon is half full. Being on a corner block many passers-by pop their head over the fence and have a chat. I also have three chooks and an aviary full of budgies – all on a 220 sqm block

DUFFER'S TICE OPENING

Too many people use the Standard Opening in croquet. This shows a lack of imagination. It is not a particularly good opening – especially for the player going first, as they have difficulty making a break whether they hit the tice or join up. Using a different opening will usually disconcert your opponent and give you a psychological advantage.

One good opening for the player going second is the Duffer's Tice (especially if you can roquet better than your opponent). It is named after Duff Matthews, an Irishman who was one of the best players in Britain from 1908 to the 1930's.

In this opening, the first player does the usual standard opening, then the second player sends their ball from B-baulk to a point north east of hoop 6. The length depends on your roquet ability.



In the diagram, red has been sent to the east boundary, and blue is the Duffer's tice. This gives your opponent a problem. If they aim hard at your tice from B-baulk they will finish near A-baulk, giving an easy roquet for black. If they aim gently they will give a double. If yellow roquets the tice, there is not much on to make a break. If they join up with their own ball, and black roquets blue, then it is not too difficult to start a break (go over to the red and yellow together on the boundary, roquet one of them and then rush the other to hoop 1. After hoop 1, the blue ball is not too far from hoop 2, so you should be able to put a ball at hoop 3 and then rush blue to hoop 2).

If you are not confident about roqueting blue with black, then it is best to aim hard at blue so you do not leave two balls near each other in the middle of the lawn.

Jim Hicks

Many Cammeray members will be saddened to learn that Jim Hicks died at Port Macquarie on 12th July. Jim was the most experienced Examining Referee in NSW, and many of us learnt from him. He was often one of the examiners for umpires and referees at Cammeray. He was also a generous mentor of players and referees, and an excellent player.

New Laws

The 7th Edition laws for AC are now being used. Most of the changes in the laws only affect referees and umpires, but there are a few changes that players should be aware of:

Casting – if some one who is casting touches a striker's ball in a critical position (e.g. about to run a hoop) then that touch is deemed to be the stroke and the turn ends.

The laws specify what decision should be made in borderline situations -
ball on boundary – out
whether hoop made – yes
whether a ball is wired – yes

Reasons for stopping clocks are clearly defined; normally a delay of at least five minutes is needed to justify stopping a clock. Toilet breaks are not included in the reasons for stopping a clock.

If a spectator gives advice that a fatal error is about to be made, and the player acts on this advice, they are allowed to continue but cannot score any further points

Penalties for time-wasting are specified, including limits on the time per turn (5 minutes plus 3 minutes per hoop scored)

Ordering Club Clothing From Gail Parrott

There are various shirts that can be ordered from the club. The details are in the members' section of the website, under 'CCC Documents', and 'Club Forms'. One form gives the clothing illustrations and sizes, while another is the order form.

The website pictures of most items are shown in red, but all CCC clothing will be supplied in White with a Navy trim or in the case of the Rugby Top, Navy with a White trim.

Orders will normally be placed in April for Winter supplies and October for the Summer supplies (I will require more than a couple of items to place an order). Orders will be placed in the interim for tournament clothing when necessary.

To place an order, complete the order form and deposit the total cost into the nominated bank account listed on the form. Email Gail Parrott on gailp03@optusnet.com.au with your order and allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.



Gail Parrott