



Cammeray Croquet Club



July 2020

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

Thursday golf croquet

Anyone interested in golf croquet should come along on Thursday morning from 10 a.m. to 12. If you are keen to improve your game, there will be experienced players who will be glad to help you with tactics and stroke-play.

Covid-19 Safety Rules

- Do not play if you are unwell, have a dry cough, or flu-like symptoms
- Wash your hands regularly, use disposable antiseptic wipes, hand sanitiser and disposable gloves
- You must book to play. Please arrive, play, leave.
- The Clubhouse is closed except to use the toilet. Wipe down all surfaces you touch.
- The Kitchen is closed. No club cups or glasses, kitchen utensils or kitchen supplies are to be used. BYO welcome.
- Please provide your own antiseptic wipes, sanitiser and disposable gloves. Where possible use your foot to trundle balls.
- Wipe down croquet equipment before and after use.
- Please be mindful of the safety of others and yourself, at all times.

Websites

Croquet Scores: <https://croquetscores.com/>

The final website in this series is the most popular of all. It was set up by leading Australian player Tim Murphy, and has become the source of information on tournaments throughout the world. It lists the upcoming tournaments, and when they start it provides hour by hour updates on the scores of each game. So you can follow the CNSW Bronze Singles, or the Latvian Women's Championship, or world championships when they are on. For major tournaments – such as the World Championships – it usually provides a commentary on the play as well by one of the top players.

This website is used by almost every experienced player to see how their friends are going, check on results in their own tournament, or look through the upcoming tournaments to decide on which one to enter.

(If you use the website regularly, how about sending a small donation to Tim to help him develop and maintain the website?)

Tournaments

Tournaments have restarted in New South Wales, and several have involved Cammeray members. You can check the schedule and register for tournaments at croquet_nsw.org. If you are a new member just complete the website registration process.

The NSW Open Men's Singles Golf Croquet had three of our players in it: Peter Landrebe won all his block games, lost in the knockout, then won the plate. Rob Elliott reached the semi-final of the knockout; while Stephen Howes had a couple of close games against top players. Ten days later, Peter won the NSW Open GC Tournament.

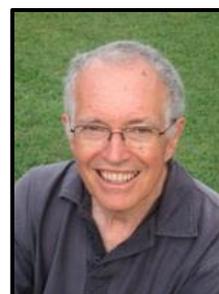
The NSW Gold Singles at Cammeray was a hard-fought contest; after two-thirds of the tournament, all the players had the same score; but David Stanton won his last two games to finish ahead of Michael Strickland.

The NSW Bronze Singles at Killara had two Cammeray players. Warren Yates won all his block games, but was defeated in the semi-final by the eventual winner. Our other player was John Potter, one of our newer members. He did creditably in the tournament, winning half his block games and reaching the semi-

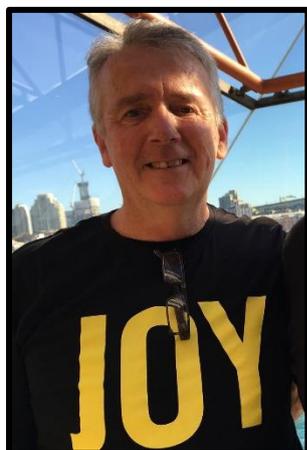
final of the Consolation. His comments on the experience of entering the tournament are below:



David Stanton



Warren Yates



John Potter

John Potter on his first CNSW tournament

“Warren encourages me to register for the tournament at Killara. First game. People are watching ... that hasn't happened to me since the Beginners. With an 18-point game, we start at Hoop 5. Yew. Does the standard opening work with that? Probably. But I remember that Neil suggested beginners might open close to the peg, rather than SE. Hoop 5 is closer to the peg, so to the peg I go. Opening nerves, mishit. Bang! I jammed the first ball in the middle of Hoop 5. It looked like I intended that, I hope. And the games go on. Some good for me, some not. My worst was a hopeless hoopless against Fidy from Mosman, the eventual runner-up. My best was my first ever peg-out. Now, that is cause for celebration. But it's croquet, so let's not carried away. I ended up with 3 wins of 6 played, which I was happy with”.

“What surprised me about the tournament was how much fun it was. Because there were two games per court, usually with two referees, there was always someone to talk to while off court. Sharing experience with other players (and their reflections of what was happening on court) was entertaining. For me, the best part was getting the referees' pearls of wisdom; they were all experienced players, and I picked up so much from them. So, thanks in particular to Steve and David from Cammeray, and Ron from Killara, who were happy to give side-line coaching tips (at the appropriate time), as they should, for such a tournament, which, at least for me, was a tremendous learning exercise. I do think these sorts of tournaments at this level should be used as coaching sessions, for those who want it, so that the experienced referees can help the players improve. Better for the players, and more rewarding for the referees”.

Sun Zi and the Art of Croquet

Many readers will be aware that one of our members, Graham Maynard, has written a book on croquet. It relates the tactics of croquet to the writings of a Chinese general of the 6th century B.C. on the Art of War. Below is an extract so that you can get the flavour of this book.

Weakness and Strength

Sun Zi says: ...*a good strategist leads his enemy around and never allows himself to be led around by his enemy.*

Thus, an ingenious attacker makes the defender at a loss how to defend; an ingenious defender makes the attacker at a loss how to attack.

Analyse the enemy's strategy to make sure of its strong and weak points; provoke the enemy slightly to make sure of its usual way of response; reconnoitre the enemy's position to make sure of its favourable and unfavourable features; seek minor engagements with him to make sure of his strength and weakness.

Victory is won by flexibly coping with the changing circumstances.

To conduct war is like the running of water. As water runs from a higher plane to a lower one, so in conducting war one avoids the enemy's strong points and strikes at his weak ones.

He is a wonderful strategist who wins victories by taking into full account the changes of the enemy.

Commentary

The concepts in this chapter will be obvious to all players. They can be summed up in four words well worth remembering (although in the 'heat of a game' we are often prone to forget them!): initiative, control, momentum and dictate.

Looking on the sad side of a game, if you start off well by grasping the initiative and then lose it through bad judgement, a blindingly stupid movement, being out-maneuvred or just bad luck, then in succession you lose control, lose momentum (unable to make hoops, gain a dominant unassailable position in Golf, or continue a break etc.), and lastly your ability to dictate your terms in the game.

On the bright side of the game if you achieve Master Sun's directive at an early stage and gain the initiative then the other three will follow like water flowing unimpeded.

The key to bringing these concepts into play is to know the weaknesses and strengths of yourself and your oppo. and the ability to act assuredly and flexibly to the changing circumstances within the game.

Above all, control is of utmost importance: the control of all four balls, of yourself in all matters relating to the game, including your mental state and thoughts, and even of your opponent's planning and subsequent actions through your play. As Master Sun says, try to avoid situations that would benefit your enemy's strong points and gain benefit when they display a weakness.

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