



# Cammeray Croquet Club



**June 2020**

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

## PLAYING AT CAMMERAY

We are now back to playing two games per lawn, so there is plenty of room for all to play. However, you have to book first – go to the Cammeray website, log into the members' section, and use '*Click here to access the booking sheet*'. If you have difficulty entering names, you may have to use 'edit with google sheets'. Press enter when you have finished. If you change your mind, you can always delete the booking later. You can also add your name after the event if you have forgotten to book. The bookings are used to invoice players for the lawn fees.

We recommend the golf croquet session on Thursday mornings 10 to 12, especially for new members.

From July 1, the maximum weekly fee per member will be \$9 instead of \$8. This means that if you play more than three times, the extra games are free.

## TOURNAMENTS

Tournaments are starting up again. They have already begun in South Australia, and will commence in NSW in July. Several Cammeray members have entered events – Peter Landrebe in the NSW Men's Golf Croquet Open, Rosie Landrebe in the Women's GC Open, Warren Yates in the Bronze Singles (9-12 July) and Michael Strickland and David Stanton in the Gold Singles (21 – 23 July). The gold singles is still short of entries – ambitious silver players can enter this tournament if they wish.

## FURTHER CROQUET WEBSITES

**Croquet NSW** <https://croquet-nsw.org/>

CNSW has information on upcoming tournaments (in 'events'). It provides policies on health and safety, doping, tournament regulations etc. It has a list of referees and umpires (with dates for renewal for their accreditation). It gives the handicaps of all NSW players, and you can download handicap cards. There is a shop for laws books, and the site includes histories of many country clubs. It has explanations and the laws of Association Croquet, Golf Croquet, Ricochet and Gateball. It is well worth a browse around this website.

**James Tremlett:** <https://www.youtube.com/user/james2temlett>

James Tremlett is a leading referee from South Australia. His site has many videos of interest to referees, showing faulty shots in slow motion. It also has demonstrations of playing some special shots to run angled hoops, including the Pirie Poke and the brush stroke. Many of the videos feature Simon Hockey, one of Australia's leading players.

The site also has a wealth of videos of top-level games showing Bamford, Fletcher, Hockey and Maugham, and interviews with top players at the 2012 World Championships.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE PLAYING BADLY

All croquet players have periods when they play badly. I have watched players in the World Championships missing short roquets and over-rolling hoops. However, one's skills can return quite quickly under the right circumstances, so we need to foster that as best we can.

The first action is to check a few parameters that can affect one's game – are you lifting your head? Are you forgetting to stalk? Is your stance crooked? If none of these applies, then you have to play on and hope.

The wrong thing to do when one's game falls apart is to concentrate fiercely, grip the mallet tighter, and struggle on. This is usually combined with a desire to see where the ball is going as soon as possible, so the head comes up half way through the shot. Because of the nervous tension, one often plays quickly.

Playing a good game depends on a good swing, and this comes from being relaxed, and relying on 'muscle memory' to do the work. When one is playing well, there is no need to think about how to play the shots – the muscles have been trained to do the right thing. So one wants to get back to this ideal state. The best way to achieve this is by slowing down, relaxing and focussing on having a smooth swing.

Getting one's swing back takes a number of shots, but when one is playing badly the visits to the lawn tend to be very brief. The best tactics are to try to prolong one's turn. This means not trying any difficult shots – avoiding the long split roll or the cut rush, and focussing on simple roquets and take-offs. Don't try to set up the lawn, just try to make the next hoop, and then if necessary come back to the partner ball and set a leave. This way one gets many more shots, and confidence starts to return. Once the game has begun to improve one can attempt the more ambitious shots.

Note that it can be dangerous to practice when you are playing badly – it is easy to reinforce errors. So if you do practice, concentrate carefully on doing each shot properly – or even better, get an experienced player to watch you and comment on what you may be doing wrong.

*(Correspondence on this topic would be welcomed – send it to [nhardie@ozemail.com.au](mailto:nhardie@ozemail.com.au))*

## KITCHEN

The kitchen is now finished and fully operational and its looks splendid. Getting to this point has involved an enormous behind the scenes effort by Bev Westwood and Marg O'Brien. The initial design concept came from Marg and she recommended the contractor. Bev project managed the installation. Along the way appliances, tiles and floor coverings had to be selected and someone had to be on site whenever a plumber, electrician or carpenter needed to be on site. The existing kitchen had to be unpacked and then the items re-assigned to the new cupboards. Congratulations to Bev and Marg for a great team effort and getting the job done within the time and budget constraints. We would like to acknowledge the generous \$10,000 grant provided by the Australian Government Stronger Communities Program and particularly the assistance of our local member Trent Zimmerman who helped us transition the grant which was originally awarded for a lighting upgrade to a kitchen upgrade instead.



**The new kitchen**



**Bev Westwood**



**Marg O'Brien**

## THE ORIGINS OF CROQUET

The origins of croquet are uncertain. There was a game called 'Pall Mall' which was introduced to England in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and was played by Charles II – Pepys' diary records on 2 April 1661: 'To St James Park, where I saw the Duke of York playing at Pelle Melle'. However, although the equipment of Pall Mall was similar to that of croquet, the actual game was more like golf.



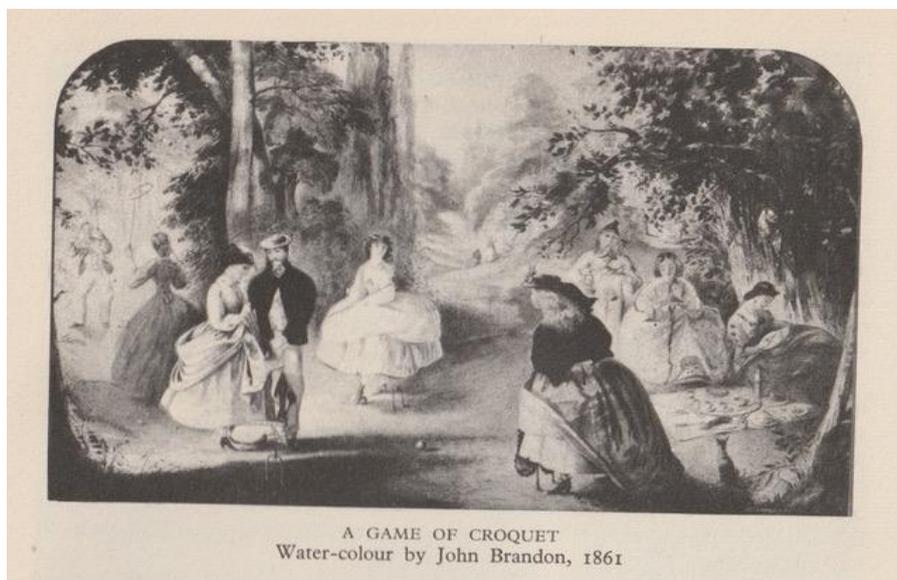
**A player of Pall Mall**



**Maud Drummond, Lady Champion in 1897**

The first record of a game which can be called croquet is from Ireland in around 1835; and this game was introduced to England in 1851, possibly by a Miss McNaughten. John Jacques had a leading role in popularising the game, making croquet mallets, hoops and balls, and producing a definitive set of laws in 1864 (though he seems to have published earlier versions in 1857 and 1860). By 1867 Jacques had printed 65,000 copies of his "Laws and regulations" and croquet parties became very popular as a way where ladies and gentlemen could mingle.

Jacques of London is still selling croquet equipment today.



**A GAME OF CROQUET**  
Water-colour by John Brandon, 1861

*More on the history of croquet can be found in 'The Queen of Games' by Nicky Smith and 'The History of Croquet' by D.C.M. Prichard*