



Cammeray Croquet Club



May 2020

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

BACK TO CROQUET!



Ian Lucas was the last person off the lawns before the lockdown, and he and Margaret O'Brien were the first back on when it was lifted on 9/5/20.

We are all delighted to be back on the lawns again – though with some restrictions. If you want to play, you need to book a time. On the Cammeray Croquet Website, go to the Members section, and find the section 'Book a Time to Play', where there are instructions on how to do this. You do not pay at the time – you will be invoiced for your bookings later. Other requirements are: bring your own towel and soap; bring your own water; wash hands before and after play; wipe hoop clips and balls with sanitizer after use; maintain strict social distancing; and stay away if you feel unwell.

MORE CROQUET WEBSITES

The Bob Kroeger Website <https://www.bobcroquet.com/>

This US site has video analysis of single ball shots; animations and videos of 3 and 4 ball breaks; and several videos of great value for referees and umpires (double taps, hampered shots etc.)

Paddy Chapman croquet videos <https://www.youtube.com/user/paddy1nz/videos>

Paddy Chapman is the former world champion from New Zealand; his site includes the art of the 2-ball break, jump shots, a sextuple peel, Aspinall peels and demonstrations of split shots.

LAWNS



Work continues on the lawns – the patches of sand are probably to level off specific areas. All will be explained next month.

KITCHEN

The refurbishment of the kitchen is well under way. Bev Westwood and Margaret O'Brien cleared out the kitchen and the workmen have been busy since then.



Items from the kitchen stored in the clubhouse



New benches, oven and microwave space in the new kitchen

TOURNAMENTS

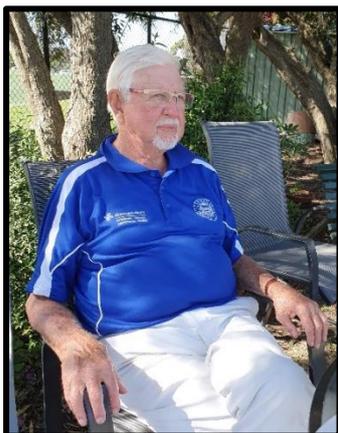
David Stanton, who is the remarkably effective and hard-working Tournament Director for Croquet NSW, tells me that they are planning to start tournaments again in July. So if you are interested in playing in a tournament, check the CNSW website 'events' next month <https://croquet-nsw.org/events.aspx?year=2020&type=S>

Some of the tournaments planned for July are the Bronze Singles, the Bronze Brooch, and the Gold Singles. Every keen player should have a go at playing in a tournament – it is a great learning exercise, so check what is on, and enter your name. Most of the more experienced members can tell you what is involved and how to enter, so don't hesitate to ask.

EIRE CUP

Looking further ahead, the Eire Cup will be played in Sydney next year. This is the inter-state competition, when New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia play tests against each other to determine the best croquet state. New South Wales won it this year in a nail-biting finish against Victoria. It involves a very large number of games. Stephen Howes has been appointed as the Tournament Referee for this, and we will need a lot of referees. So if all the experienced referees can keep the dates free, it will help. The dates are from March 13th to 21st 2021.

The Tournament Referee (TR) is in charge of all the refereeing at a tournament; he/she appoints all other referees, organises the schedule for referees, and is the arbiter for any appeal against a refereeing decision.



Stephen Howes, who is to be the Tournament Referee for the Eire Cup has an impressive record as TR – he was the TR for the World Croquet Championship in Florida in 2016, and he has been the TR for the Dixon Classic held at Cammeray for the last few years.

LIFTS AND CONTACT IN AC ADVANCED PLAY

Most games in silver and above are played as 26 point Advanced Play. This means that lifts and contacts are conceded at various point in the game. This can be sometimes confusing for those new to advanced play; but there are also some aspects of the rules that are unfamiliar to experienced players.

The basic rule for advanced play is straightforward: whenever a player makes 1-back or 4-back with their striker ball, their opponent becomes entitled to a lift. This means that at the end of the turn, the opponent can pick up either of their balls and place it at any point on either baulk line (law 36a). They are not compelled to do this – it is sometimes more advantageous to play a ball from where it lies.

This rule affects the tactics of the game: at the end of a turn where 1-back or 4-back has been scored, the player will avoid leaving any ball near corners 1 and 3, as this will give an easy roquet for the opponent.

If a player scores both 1-back and 4-back in the same turn – and their partner ball has not yet scored 1-back – then the opponent is entitled to contact. This means that the opponent can pick up either of their balls, and place it in contact with any other ball in the game – the partner ball, or either of those of the other side (law 36b).

Note that once a player has run 1-back with a striker ball, they can go round both 1-back and 4-back with the other ball and only give away a lift. Contact only applies when a player takes a ball through both hoops before they have scored 1-back with the other.

Note that ‘the same turn’ in this case includes the situation when the player has taken one or more bisques – provided that they have been playing continuously, contact is given when they go through 1 back and 4 back without leaving the lawn.

Most players will try to avoid giving contact; with their first ball they stop after 3-back and set a leave (making sure the balls are a long way from either baulk line).

A couple of other rules apply: a player is not entitled to any lifts or contact if they have already pegged a ball out (law 36c). This applies whether the pegged out ball is their own or the opponent's. Another rule is that contact is still given even if a player peels their other ball through 1-back during the turn when they score both 1-back and 4-back with the striker ball – because the partner ball must have scored 1-back **before** the turn begins.

For top-level players dealing with lifts and contacts, the tactics require special skills. The usual practice is to take one ball around and stop before 4-back, thus conceding only a lift. If the opponent misses the lift, the first player will then take the other ball around all twelve hoops, and in the process they will try to peel the partner ball through its remaining three hoops. If they succeed in doing this, they can peg both balls out, and they have achieved a **triple peel**.

At the very top level players sometimes go even further. With their first ball they stop after hoop 6, so they do not give away even a lift; then in their next turn they score the twelve hoops with the second ball, while peeling the partner ball through its remaining six hoops, and then pegging both balls out. This is the **sextuple peel**, and is a remarkable sight to watch.