



# Cammeray Croquet Club



**March 2021**

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

## From our President

Our lawns are looking good after a lot of hard work by North Sydney council. They are a joy to play on. And there is lots of playing going on.

We were lucky to host the Eastern Seaboard Doubles event and later in the year will be hosting the CNSW Silver Championship as well as the Gold Brooch. There were 5 Cammeray Players in the Eastern Seaboard Doubles (there will be six in the singles) and we have traditionally had many players in the other events. You are welcome to come along and watch these events – check the website and booking sheet for times.

At long last the kitchen is open, but we need to make some changes to how we operate. Please read the notice in the clubhouse and do the right thing by yourself and other club members. And it is great to have a dishwasher!

Our Birthday Tournament is on Thursday April 15 to Sunday April 18. Helpers are needed each day particularly with the catering but also to set up and pack down. Kristen Kool-Clark and Mary Goldsack are organising a roster so let them know when you can help.

There will be more new faces around the club as Ian Lucas and Michael Strickland have 10 players lined up for their Beginners Course. Say hello when you see these new faces around the club.

Finally, there is room for more players on a Tuesday and Friday morning. These are handicap sessions for all level of players so are great for beginners trying to learn how to put it all together.

## First aid from David Surridge



Hi to all members at CCC

I would just like to remind everyone that I have taken on responsibility for first aid matters at the club, so this is just a reminder of what facilities we have at the club and what to do in an emergency .

Firstly we have a new first aid kit located in the desk drawer next to front door of the club house.

This contains basic supplies for treating minor cuts, abrasions and sprains.

If you find yourself needing to use the kit, please let me know, so that I can restock and replace items.

Secondly we have an automatic defibrillator located by the kitchen servery. This is clearly marked in a green box, along with a poster detailing what to do in the event of an emergency. Please take a few minutes to familiarise yourself with this equipment, and the basic steps for CPR. It is very simple, and is designed to be used by people who have no medical training, so don't be afraid to grab the green box if needed!

So when is that?

If you should be unfortunate enough to witness someone collapse/ lose consciousness whilst at the club, remember the following priorities:

- 1 Call for help! Ask someone to call 000 , remembering to clearly state your location and entrance points
- 2 Stay with the person whilst sending someone to get the defibrillator
- 3 Assess for signs of life, and if none commence CPR, whilst waiting for defibrillator. Do not attempt to move the person. When the defibrillator arrives, follow the instructions! Remember it is very simple and you will not cause any harm by using it. Continue to follow the instructions (the machine will talk you through it!) until professional help arrives.

For any other emergencies in which the person remains conscious but may have sustained an injury, such as a fall or trip, stay with the person: do not attempt to move them, remembering that it is possible to sustain a spinal injury even in a simple fall. Don't hesitate to call 000 if you suspect a serious injury.

I am planning to do some practical sessions on basic life support and the use of the defibrillator, in the club house, after the morning play. I will post the dates on the notice board shortly.

I can do more than one session if there is a demand.

Happy and healthy croquet everyone!

## Tournaments

### Eastern Seaboard Mixed Doubles

Alison Sharpe and Tim Murphy won this event; two Cammeray players were involved in the play-off for third, when Rosie Landrebe and Alan Honey beat Peter Landrebe and Kerry-Ann Organ.

However, in the plate, our own Joanne Brown partnered Brett Rogers of Warrawee to win.



**Brett Rogers advises Joanne Brown on tactics**

### Eastern Seaboard Singles

Cammeray was well-represented in this, with Peter and Rosie Landrebe, Alan Walsh and Barbara McDonald, Mike Hughes, David Stanton and Rob Elliot. It was a very strong field, including Robert Fletcher, who was ranked first in the world, but has dropped out of the rankings as he has not played enough games recently. Callum Hyland of Tasmania, Alan Honey of Canberra and Alison Sharpe of Killara were also playing. Much of the play was in heavy rain, and one of the lawns at Tempe flooded at times – an extra lawn has been put in at Tempe, and the lawns there need more time to settle.

Alan Honey played splendidly, and pipped Peter Landrebe for a place in the semi-final. Robert Fletcher did a fifth-turn sextuple on his way to the semi-final, where he was unexpectedly beaten by Alison Sharpe. Callum Hyland beat Alan Honey in the other semi-final, but lost 2 games to 1 to Alison in the final – in spite of doing a straight triple in the first game.

Alan Walsh played well, winning 6 out of 8 games in his block and just missing out on a semi-final place.

David Stanton, the tournament manager, reported on the difficult conditions:

*Difficult doesn't come close to describing the conditions on Saturday. There were 30 games scheduled to be played, but lawn 2 was unplayable all day, lawns 1 and 3 were unplayable for some time during the day, and lawn 4 became unplayable with a final torrential downpour from about 3.30 pm, at which stage all remaining games were*

*abandoned. We managed to complete 14 of the 30 games, including all games necessary to determine a winner in the Red block. The final Blue block game between the two undefeated players, Robert Fletcher and Alan Honey, was under way when we were forced to abandon play. Robert was ahead on net hoops, so we declared him the block winner, with Alan Runner-up.*

*We prioritised games where the result would either confirm that a player would finish in the top two in the block, or where it would confirm that that could not happen. As there were only 6 players in each block with a chance of making the finals, we made sure that games involving these players were played as soon as possible.*

*The conditions for play were the worst I have ever experienced. Rosie Landrebe observed that it looked as though the Eastern Seaboard had indeed come to Tempe!*

## Cammeray Handicap Championship

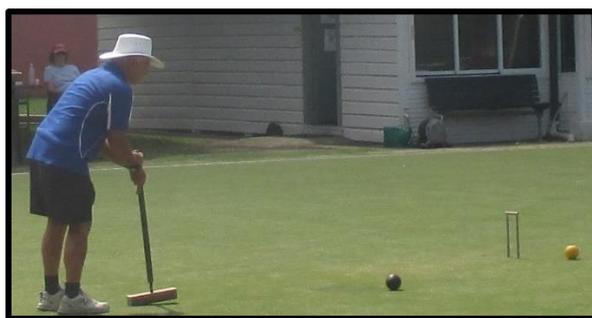
We have a good field in this event, with handicaps ranging from 20 down to 1 ½ . The final will be played after this newsletter comes out, but the redoubtable Browns look set for the final. It is time their handicaps were reduced!



Malcolm Sheldon



Peter Colquhoun



Steve Miles

## Roles of club members

Many of our members work hard to keep the club operating. For the next few newsletters we will list some of the jobs and people involved. This month we highlight:



Warren Yates



Kristen Kool-Clarke



Mary Goldsack



David Stanton

Warren Yates, our splendid secretary, who also looks after our excellent website

David Stanton, who is in charge of facilities maintenance

Kristen Kool-Clarke and Mary Goldsack who are our Social Events Co-ordinators.

## How to Use Bisques

Neil Hardie will run a coaching session on 'How to Use Bisques' on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. This course would be useful to most bronze-level players, and some silvers. Anyone welcome.

Another session for more advanced players on 'How to Play Against Bisques' is planned for later next month.

## An interview with MARGARET O'BRIEN



### Conversations with Graham Maynard

**GM:** Morning Margaret

**MOB:** Morning Graham!

**GM:** When and why did you take up croquet?

**MOB:** My old friend Kerry Phillips said she was going to learn croquet so I said "Oh, oh! I might do that myself", so we came and had lessons.

**GM:** How long ago was that?

**MOB:** That was about ten years ago.

**GM:** You're a consistently good player, often coming back to win after being way behind, and you have won Club and other competitions, what are your current goals?

**MOB:** (laughs) To be more consistent...

**GM:** ...To be more consistent! Ha, ha!...

**MOB:** ...And win from the beginning!

**GM:** Of course! Do you plan to go into any NSW competitions this year?

**MOB:** I'm not sure.

**GM:** Umm, OK. Over the years you have contributed greatly to the smooth running of the Club, organising games and competitions, maintaining the cleanliness and housekeeping of the club house including, with Bev, the new kitchen and in establishing the garden. What future plans do you have for these areas?

**MOB:** I'm afraid that sometimes the standard of cleanliness in some of these areas like the kitchen has been beyond my control during Covid but I would like to maintain good standards in the club house and the garden.

**GM:** Of course you are also busy in Bushcare and I hear also at the Crows Nest Community Centre.

**MOB:** Yes.

**GM:** So just how do you allocate your time with that and croquet? – and also you play tennis as well.

**MOB:** Oh, I'm not playing tennis now; I started playing bowls a year ago, but I allocate most mornings to one or the other.

**GM:** What, if anything, do you think could be improved in the club?

**MOB:** There should be more communication across the board between the top players and the new players...

**GM:** ...yes...

**MOB:** and more play between the new players and the top players.

**GM:** So, that should happen on the days when all players are welcome, on Tuesday and Friday mornings.

Do you think that it is happening?

**MOB:** MOB: No, it's not happening at all! It's usually only the silver players that come along and occasionally some of the top players and some bronze players. We need some more gold players and also new players who want to learn. Games are handicap games so everyone should have a go and everyone is welcome. These days have been successful in the past and we need to find how to make them successful again.

**GM:** Thank you Marg!

**MOB:** Thanks!

## Club Championship

The 2021 Club Association Croquet Championship is open to all club members. Play will be scheduled on Monday and Wednesday mornings at 9:30am commencing on Wednesday, April 7. Entries close Thursday, April 1, 2021.

Enter by emailing Sandra Colquhoun [Sandra.colquhoun@yahoo.com.au](mailto:Sandra.colquhoun@yahoo.com.au)

## Wafer Cannons by Neil Hardie

### How to get a cannon

If, after you make a roquet, the croquet ball finishes in contact with another ball, this is a cannon. It usually happens on the boundary when the croquet ball is measured in, and there is another ball on the boundary line which interferes with the placement of the croquet ball. It is especially common at corners. Beginners are usually frightened of cannons, while good players aim to get them wherever possible.

### Rules for cannons

With a cannon, both the striker ball and the third ball become 'balls in hand' and can be moved. You can place the striker ball and the other ball anywhere in contact with the croquet ball, but not in contact with each other. The croquet ball may not be moved (once it has been measured in).

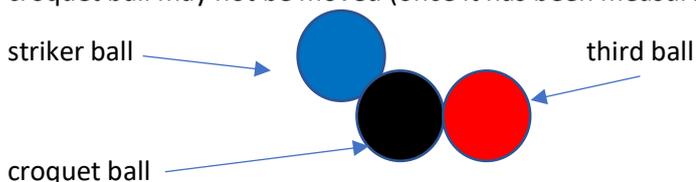


Fig. 1 Example of a legal placement of a cannon.

### If you get a cannon

For advanced players, getting a cannon is an opportunity to place two balls in advantageous positions. For beginners, the main aim is to rush the third ball to a good position.

### Wafer cannons:

In a wafer cannon, the striker's ball is placed as close as possible to the third ball while in contact with the croquet ball. In Fig 2 there is a very small gap between blue (the striker's ball) and red (the third ball).

There are now many options for the player: she may just rush the red to a good position leaving black where it is, or she may rush red and also move black to a more useful position. Provided the wafer (distance between the blue and red ball) is thin enough, the red will be sent along the line of centres.

To get a simple rush without moving black much, you fine take-off from croquet ball as shown in Fig 3. Note that you do not aim along the line of centres of blue and red – this would move the black considerably, and is more difficult to control. You need to hit harder than in a simple rush, as the striker's ball moves some distance, so you are moving two balls.



Fig 2: set up for a wafer cannon



Fig 3: A simple rush



Fig 4: Aiming at the junction

If you aim at the contact point between the black and red (Fig. 4), both balls move a long way: black (the croquet ball) goes about twice the distance of the red (the roqueted ball). You have to remember to hit blue harder as you are moving three balls.

Another option is shown in Fig 5 – aiming along the line of centres of blue and red. In this case the croquet ball (black) goes about half the distance of the roqueted ball (red).



Fig. 5: aiming along centres

We would recommend that players experiment with wafer cannons, trying different angles and seeing where the balls go. It is a much better option than the more common banana cannon.

## Get Involved Steve Miles

Are you wondering about when you can play croquet at Cammeray? Are you feeling a bit lost because it all seems confusing? Are you worried that other players won't want to play you because you are not good enough?

Don't worry, we have all been there. Getting out on the lawns is the best way to overcome this. All club members want to see players improve and are happy to help you do this.

Tuesday and Friday mornings are handicap sessions. This means all players can come and play handicap games – from a handicap of 20 down to those on negative handicaps. The purpose of these sessions is to improve play for higher handicap players. Players are drawn from a hat to determine who plays who.

Saturday afternoon are handicap sessions with a difference. Games are handicap games for those on 9 or above and players generally have a glass of wine afterwards (currently byo due to COVID-19 requirements).

Other sessions have handicap ranges. These are generally level games but may be handicap games if players agree.

At other times you can indicate that you are available to have a game by typing "pl" (pot luck) after your name. If you want to take up a pot luck offer on the list just call that player and then add "pl" after your name.