



Cammeray Croquet Club



March 2022

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

The Australian Open and Eire Cup

The main events this month have been the Australian Open and the Eire Cup. Cammeray members have played a major part in these tournaments, both organizing and playing.

The greatest contribution was made by David Stanton and Stephen Howes. David was the Tournament Manager, which is a lot of work at the best of times; when there are additional problems due to COVID, late withdrawals, uncooperative clubs and flooded lawns, it becomes a truly mammoth task. David overcame all these problems and both tournaments went smoothly and very successfully.

Stephen Howes was the Tournament Referee, and had to organize and supervise the refereeing for the tournaments. With up to eight games at each of five different venues, this needed a lot of referees and umpires. There was the extra problem of a new set of laws that most of the officials had not experienced, so there were sessions to agree on the interpretation of the new laws before the tournaments started.



David Stanton



Stephen Howes

In addition, Sandra Colquhoun and Joanne Brown were venues managers for Cammeray, and Cammeray referees worked hard all week at various venues – Steve Miles was Venue Referee at Royal Sydney Golf Club, and Michael Strickland, Mike Hughes and Neil Hardie all refereed for long hours for many days.

Cammeray supplied its usual generous catering, and was the back-up option for unfinished games at other venues, as these could be completed under lights.



Working at Cammeray – David Stanton, John Arney (player from South Australia), Kristin Kool-Clark, Gail Parrot



Our President setting hoops in the early morning



Helen Collins and Michael Strickland checking hoops

The Australian Open

In the men's singles Peter Landrebe, Mike Hughes and Alan Walsh from Cammeray competed. Peter reached the final but was beaten by Dwayne McCormick who was in scintillating form. Alan Walsh reached the final of the Y event, but lost to Kevin Beard, one of the top Victorian players.

In the women's singles were Barbara McDonald, Sue Eldridge Smith and Rosie Landrebe, plus Joanne Brown in the plate. Rosie was runner-up to Alison Sharpe in the main event, while Barbara McDonald won the W event and Sue Eldridge-Smith won the plate.

Altogether a satisfying result for Cammeray!

The Eire Cup

The Eire Cup is the annual competition between the Australian states. Last year it was cancelled, and this year Tasmania and Western Australia did not come due to COVID. Victoria and NSW beat Queensland and South Australia, then there was a pulsating match between these two teams to decide the winner, with NSW eventually winning 13-7. Peter and Rosie Landrebe made a great contribution – Peter won both his singles games, and his doubles, while Rosie won her doubles match and one of her singles games (losing the other by one hoop to Elaine Coverdale).



Peter in the final of the Man's Singles



Rosie

Malcolm Sheldon

Last month Malcom Sheldon was elected President of Cammeray Croquet Club, having been Vice-President for the last few years. Malcolm agreed to answer some questions about himself for the newsletter so that members have a clearer idea of our leader.



Where did you grow up and study?

My family moved around a bit when I was young. I was born in a little town in Lancashire, England called Leigh, just outside of Manchester. But when I was about 4 we moved over the Pennines to Halifax in Yorkshire. Three years later we moved back to Lancashire, to Southport, just north of Liverpool, where I did most of my schooling. From the earliest days I formed a liking for science subjects and majored in Maths and Physics for A-Levels (aka HSC). When it came time to choose a university I signed up for Cybernetics and Computer Science at Reading University in Berkshire. Most people in the UK move away from home to go to university. I was no exception and never returned to Southport. When I graduated I didn't feel ready to join the ranks of the employed and elected to do a year's post graduate teaching course and qualified as a maths teacher. One thing that course taught me though was that I really didn't like teaching. So I went back to my first

degree and found myself a job as a computer programmer with a small company just outside of Reading.

Where did your career take you?

As the early years rolled by I changed jobs several times moving up the food-chain, as you do, but always staying in systems analyst/programming roles. By the time I was 29 I'd got rather bored with my direction and decided that a radical change was in order. So I took myself off to London Business School for 2 years to do an MBA. This then opened up a much wider range of roles. One weekend an ad caught my eye in the Observer newspaper for managing director of a software company with offices in Sydney and Melbourne, the base to be chosen by the applicant. So, I thought "why not?". I was thrilled to be selected. I applied and received permanent residency and we were off to the great southern land. It turned out that the software companies were subsidiaries of McNair Anderson, a major market research company at the time. After a short while I moved across into the market research side of the company. By 1987 I had left to form my own company to provide software services to the market research industry. That company supported me for the next 30 years or so, until I wound it up when I retired 7 years ago.

What sports have you played in the past?

At school I played the usual stuff, rugby in the winter and cricket in the summer, with a little bit of tennis in the final years. But I was never particularly sporty, I'd rather be home reading a book than running around a rugby pitch getting thumped. At university I did play squash quite regularly and became reasonably good. When I left uni that fell by the wayside somewhat, although I took up jogging and would run most nights after work. An unexpected bonus of moving to Sydney was being able to compete in the City2Surf many times, and finishing in under an hour which is deemed respectable for a 40 yr+ . My knees and ankles pleaded for a change so these days I confine myself to a brisk 90 minute walk most mornings.

What led you to take up croquet?

I first encountered croquet when I was at London Business School. We had a lawn court at the front of the main building facing Regent's Park and would play in the long summer afternoon/evenings. Thinking back on it I'm fairly sure we played golf croquet, although my memory is a bit fuzzy. But I did come away with a fondness for the game. I really didn't think of it again until I retired and was flush with spare time. So when I was thinking of a sport to play, croquet surfaced from those long-ago pleasant memories, and I thought I'd give it a try once again. And I'm very glad I did.

What are the most pleasing experiences in your time with croquet?

I really enjoy the challenges of the game. When a really tricky split shot comes off, or a long roquet across the width of the lawn, it brings a big smile to my face. Of course playing in competitions is always challenging and rewarding. The best part however are the people. Without exception the members at Cammeray are positive and warm-hearted and really make the experience.

What do you hope to achieve as President of Cammeray Croquet Club?

I don't think that it's necessarily myself who will be driving the club; it's more a team effort and we have excellent committee members contributing to the overall success of our club. Having said that, there are a couple of things that I would like to work on. Membership numbers comes immediately to mind. We do find it difficult to recruit and retain members, for a combination of reasons. Some find AC too challenging, some can't find the time required to become proficient. I'm not sure what the answer is, but I would like to see more younger players joining the club. How do we raise the profile of croquet in general and Cammeray in particular?

We will also have a continued focus on improving the facilities at the club. Last year we installed a new kitchen and so far this year there's been a general renovation/replanting of the garden. Coming soon will be a new equipment box/store cupboard, which will be a huge relief to those of us who scramble around trying to get the padlock to close after a game.

What do you think the future holds for the croquet club?

I would hope that we can continue to provide a pleasant and fun environment for members to develop their croquet skills and socialise with others.

Club Clothing

The next round of Club clothing orders is now open. Send your completed orders to Gail (gailp03@optusnet.com.au) before April 30. You can download the order form at <https://www.cammeray-croquet.org.au/pdfs/ClothingMar22.xlsx> and details of each item at <https://www.cammeray-croquet.org.au/pdfs/ClothingSizesPics.pdf>

Club Gardens

We had two gardeners in for two days last week during all the rain and they did a great job with help from Steve Miles and Liz Nash. The trees that were obstructing the path have been lopped and the undergrowth removed. The garden bed, next to the fence with the soccer field, has been dug out and mulch laid. Steve installed timber sleepers as an edging. And to top it all off, today we were donated 30 young plants which Marg O'Brien and Liz planted. So, once they are all established the bed should be looking wonderful. Contact Liz if you are interested in helping with the garden.



The new-look garden



Our splendid tibuchina

Following all the time and hard work, would members please not walk on the garden, (or put their bicycles on it which apparently has happened).

Wire structure



There is a strange wire enclosure outside our fence near the garden. Malcolm Sheldon has enquired about this, and apparently it is designed to hold an air quality monitor for the tunnel when it gets built.

Vale Roger Liles

It is with sadness that we report the death of Roger Liles. He died in Greenwich Hospital on 23rd March at the age of 78 after a long battle with liver cancer. He was a member of Cammeray for many years, and was always cheerful and helpful.



Roger Liles



Playing in the CNSW Bronze Singles 2011

Roger was born in Watford in England and came to Australia fifty years ago. He still supported the Watford Football Club, but was also a devotee of the Sydney Swans.

He divorced his first wife soon after he came to Australia, but married again late in life to Jenny, who was a great comfort and support to him during his long illness.



wedding to Jenny in 2019

Rosemary Landrebe: My memories of Roger are as you say friendly, with a cheeky smile, a truly lovely gent.

Margaret O'Brien: Roger's greeting was usually in the form of a pun accompanied by a silly grin and he was always lots of fun to be with. All who knew him have lots of fond memories of him especially those who played with him regularly on Tuesdays & Saturdays. He was very helpful to those who had just finished their beginners' classes and who were worried about the next step i.e. a game with more experienced players. He encouraged me to play in the Pennants as his doubles partner which was my first step to becoming brave enough to enter other competitions and i'm very grateful to him for that.

Jan Thomas: So sad to hear this news. Roger was cheerful, had good stories and was always willing to assist the new players. I was privileged to be a guest at his wedding which was a lovely day.

My thanks to Matt Carden, a good friend of Roger's, who provided the information on his life.