



Cammeray Croquet Club



May 2021

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

New Member Event

Malcolm Sheldon, our estimable vice-president, organized an event to welcome new members. Longer-standing members joined them, and played alternate-stroke doubles with them, then had morning tea and another round of doubles. The morning was enjoyed by all, and gave us an opportunity to meet people that we did not know.

The newer members who came included Michael Darley, Christopher Gingell, Madelaine Gray, Keith Hills, Peter O'Shea, Barry Matheson, Elizabeth Nash, Gail Parrott, and Barbara Potter. John Potter and Heather Sherlock were more established members who turned up. Kerry Phillips, Margaret O'Brien, Warren Yates Graham Maynard, Sandra Colquhoun and Neil Hardie were among the experienced members who joined in. Thanks go to Mary Goldsack, Gail Parrott and Jan Thomas for organising the food and beverages.



Play at the new members' event



Warren Yates tells new members about items available from the club

Keith Hills



Keith Hills on the Cammeray lawn

One of our new members with an interesting background is Keith Hills. He has a son with autism, and the difficulties of getting adequate treatment for him led Keith to research the issue, and eventually set up an organization for the treatment of young children with autism – The Child Development Institute (CDI).

They chose to use an Early Intervention model designed specifically for children aged 2-5 years with Autism, the Early Start Denver Model. Therapy provided by the CDI helps children with autism develop foundational skills such as speech, social

skills, personal independence, cognition, gross motor and fine motor skills. The aim is to teach the children skills they will need to lead as normal a life as possible – to be able to make friends, to look after themselves and to be interested in the world around them.

The first centre is at Northmead near Westmead Hospital and has a staff of 13 professionals from a range of backgrounds including Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Special Education and Early Childhood Teaching.

Later this year a second centre will be opening in Beacon Hill, on Sydney's Northern Beaches.

The CDI offer a suite of programs that provide support for children, their parents and also their educators who care for them in childcare or preschool.

www.cdinstitute.com.au

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Triumph in CNSW Tournaments

Cammeray members have swept the board in recent CNSW events.

In the Mens' Open Singles, Peter Landrebe won the prize, while Mike Hughes won the Y-event and Alan Walsh won the plate.



Peter Landrebe



Peter Brown

In the CNSW Silver Singles, the Brown family continued its all-conquering run, with Peter Brown winning on a hoop count-back from Chris Brown, with Sue Eldridge-Smith coming third.

Cammeray also won the CNSW Bronze Singles, with Sandra Colquhoun coming through in the final. There is a write-up of this event below.

NSW Bronze Singles (26-28 April) by Joanne Brown



Sandra Colquhoun

The Bronze Singles kicked off early on a brisk Monday morning atop the reservoir at Killara. We had a healthy field of 12 combatants, with Cammeray well represented by Sandra Colquhoun, Warren Yates, John Potter and me. Other clubs represented included Chatswood, Mosman, Cheltenham, Holroyd and Killara.

Two blocks of six battled it out over three days, with the Cammeray contingent playing three games on day 1, the third game being played under a spectacular supermoon with long shadows stretching the length of the lawn. At least the more than 20 maggies that stalked us during the day had gone home to roost by then!

The round robin games were mostly tight, low scoring, hard fought battles with only two players pegging out across the 30 block games. Well done Bronwyn McGrane (Mosman) and Mary Lambert (Killara).

The Blue block saw Torben Albaek (Chatswood) and Bronwyn McGrane (Mosman) winning four of their five games and topping the block, while David Rush (Killara) with four wins and our own Sandra Colquhoun with three wins but a healthy net-hoop score topped the Red block. The semis resulted in Sandra and David making it through to the final, with Bronwyn and Torben heading for the third-place play-off and Bronwyn getting the win for third place. The rest of the field also played across-block games so all in all there was plenty of croquet played over the three days.

Sandra and David, both from the Red block, had played a tight round robin game with David winning that one 7-5, so Sandra knew what to expect and went into the final determined to change tactics and come out on top ... and that she did. Our very own Sandra Colquhoun, NSW Bronze Champion. Well done Sandra for bringing home the State title, a well-deserved win.

All in all, it was a great, fun-filled three days of croquet. Personally, I found it very enjoyable, despite a few losses. The opportunity to play members from other clubs, some of whom played with slightly different tactics, provided a great learning experience ... now I know how to play an Aunt Emma! Pity it took most of my game to work it out, but I'll be ready next time!

Finally, a huge congratulations and thank you to all the players, referees, and organisers for making the Bronze Singles such an enjoyable event, and a big thank you to the Killara Croquet Club for giving up their lawns for us. I can't recommend entering these inter-club tournaments more highly – great fun, lovely people, and a terrific experience for all.

Mosman Bash

In the Mosman Bash, ten of the 24 entrants were Cammeray members. The Cammeray people were hampered by the slow lawns – such a contrast to Cammeray; David Surridge said that the event was called the Mosman Bash because you had to bash the ball to get it any distance.

In spite of the slow lawns, Michael Strickland came second in the top block; Chris Brown won the second block (winning all five games); Graham Maynard won the third block (also winning every game), and Joanne Brown came second in the fourth block.

Club Championship

We have reached the final of our club championship, and Alan Walsh will play Rob Elliott. The block finished with three players on three wins each, with Steve Miles being the unlucky player to miss out on the final on a hoop count.

Features on our Website

The first is the [Noticeboard](#) which is accessible from the members area under the heading *Book a time to play*. The noticeboard has flyers about AC tournaments that other Clubs are running, along with entry forms where provided. The closing date for entries is given and events vanish from the page once the entry deadline has passed.

The other is the [Links](#) page accessible via a link on the left of the screen. Among the links to interesting Croquet sites across the globe are links to the monthly newsletter put out by Croquet NSW and the quarterly newsletter put out by the Australian Croquet Association. If any member would like to suggest a link not already there, I would be happy to add it.

Caught in the Hoop!

DAVID STANTON



Checking for a crush

Conversations with Graham Maynard

GM: Today I'm talking to David Stanton, he's a bit of a legend at Cammeray as you'll find out. David, I think you took up croquet under the suggestion of a fellow player here, and also a fellow chorister, Neil Hartley...

DS: ...that's right...

GM: ...when was that, some years ago?

DS: Late 2008, Neil rang. He was about to give some coaching to his two grandsons one of whom was in the same class as my son. So I said yes, that would be interesting, we have a little garden set at home which we enjoy and Neil said would you like to come along too? So I said as long as I'm not too old, thinking he was taking a class of kids! He said "Trust me David, in the world of croquet, you're still a very young man." We had some lessons at Chatswood, I quite enjoyed them and nothing happened for a few months and then he rang me and said, "David I want you to come and join Cammeray." I said, "Oh, Cammeray, why not Chatswood?" And he said, "No, Cammeray, I want you to come to Cammeray." And so I came here at the beginning of 2009.

GM: Well that's good! I think, well, I know you spent a term as President here, and you're still very, very, active in Croquet New South Wales. When you look back, what are your achievements both here and in CNSW?

DS: My main achievement here was, number one, continuing the line of good Presidents...I know that might sound a bit self-congratulatory, but I said that at an AGM because someone had asked me why Cammeray was such a happy club, and I said because we've had a long succession of Presidents who had put everything into it, and I wanted to continue it.

GM: Yes, I remember that.

DS: But that was not my achievement, that was continuing the example set. I think the main thing probably is the Dixon Advisory Croquet Classic.

GM: Yes!

DS: It's a great shame it probably won't happen anymore because they've withdrawn their funding. This year I didn't try to replace it because of Covid and all the rest. I will try to get something going...

GM: ...that was my next question, have you got any fingers in the pie looking for a replacement? Maybe it might not be as grand as the Dixon but it certainly...

DS: ...I'd like to keep it as grand with the same prize money...yeah, we're looking. Dixon's aren't totally out of the question -- I might go to them.

GM: Well it certainly was a stunning event to hold and possibly a world first in many ways.

DS: Probably the richest AC tournament in the world at the time...

GM: ...That we knew of. You're also a referee, and a referee examiner, is that correct?

DS: Yes.

GM: So, you've risen up quite high there and in your activities in CNSW...

DS: ...oh, I was also a founding member of the Cooks River Croquet Club.

GM: One of your "silent" activities that many in the club may or may not have noticed and that is appreciated, is your hidden carpentry and handyman skills. Suddenly something goes wrong, and within a week or even less it's fixed up as though a genie has come in and done it overnight and everything is proper again. Where did you get this skill from?

DS: My father was a Manual Arts teacher, the first principal of a State high school in NSW specialising in this field and he taught me a lot about woodwork, metalwork and so on...

GM: ...oh, that's interesting...

DS: and I still, if I'm doing things if what I've done is not quite right I think I'm glad Dad's not here looking over my shoulder, but if I do something I'm happy with I say "There you are Dad!" My two younger brothers I think are more talented than me, one of them became a builder.

GM: Now, just going back to croquet, what are your future plans and visions for club activities apart from the Dixon replacement?

DS: Not really...

GM: any way that you can see things moving...

DS: I'm always happy to help with things that are going on...if anyone wants to pick my brains I'm happy to...

GM: well that leads to the next question, what would be your advice to some of our newer players who are up-and-coming?

DS: Oh, play in events, club events, the pennants and enter CNSW events, even those which you think are beyond your reach. A number of new players have done that, Joanne Brown for example played in the Nine and Over HC Singles and the Eastern Seaboard Mixed Doubles, and she played well. Yes, play in events and don't be put off by the fact that you will be playing better players.

GM: Thank you very much, David!

DS: It's a pleasure

Caught in the Hoop is now in recess and looks forward to returning with new conversations.

Working Bee

There will be a working bee at the club on July 4th, so put this date in your diary and come along to help keep the club in good order.