



# Cammeray Croquet Club



## November 2020

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

### Lawn closure

The lawns will be closed for annual maintenance from 14<sup>th</sup> December for about three weeks

## The Cammeray Summertime Tournament 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020

from Michael Strickland



**Bronwyn McGrane (Mosman) – winner**



**Michael Strickland, runner-up**



**Mal Russell, who donated the prizes**

### The Genesis

Somewhere in the depths of a Covid winter – when even the basic tasks expected of a president of the Club had become hideously complicated, and every week brought fresh restrictions and impositions – a lightbulb came on in the fertile mind of our President, Steve Miles. He realised that simply running the Cammeray club, while moonlighting as Treasurer/Secretary of CNSW, and regularly engaging in surf life-saving, bushcare, and (grand)childcare, was not doing the trick. He craved more.

So it was that, in that dark hour, the idea of a ‘new’ open tournament at Cammeray was conceived.

‘New’ is perhaps slightly misleading, in that there had been a ‘Summertime Tournament’ held at Cammeray some ten or twelve years ago (so there was even a trophy readily available). But the creature which Steve brought forth was new and improved in many respects.

Invitations to clubs within the region produced a field of ten visitors from other clubs and six Cammeray members – none of whom had anything but praise for what they were given.

### The Format

Having become Tournament Manager, Tournament Referee, and Tournament Handicapper, Steve set about devising and implementing a format which was nothing short of an inspiration. Play would be over just Saturday and Sunday, and would start in four blocks, seeded to give a wide range of handicaps in each. Block play would be followed by the now customary ‘double elimination’ knock-out phase – meaning that you still have to lose twice to be knocked out of the main event.

Games would be played to both 'Advanced' and 'Handicap' rules, but instead of the customary 26-point, two-and-half hour games, Steve opted for 14-point, 1-hour and 15-minute games – starting at the traditional Hoop 1, but turning for the peg after Hoop 6.

In case you are wondering how 'advanced' rules can apply in such a shortened game, the answer is that hoops 3 and 5 become the 'lift' hoops. And if you run both before your other ball has run either of them, you concede a 'contact' lift. In the event, 'going to the peg' and setting a scattered leave, proved to be the favoured tactic. Your correspondent cannot recall seeing any player stopping (deliberately!) at Hoop 5.

For the sake of completeness, we must add that the usual 'handicap difference' in calculating bisques was halved. And even with the reduced number of bisques, the shorter time meant that playing to 'extract' bisques from an opponent was a risky strategy. The major aim for either player had to be to run hoops, and build up a good lead – even if it meant giving a 'contact' lift. For all that (or perhaps because of it) there were remarkably few 'pegged-out' games (14pts).

In addition to the shorter (75-minute) time-limit, games also 'stopped on the bell', and if scores were level, the player who scored the last point was declared winner – no need for a 'golden point'.

## The Outcome

All this meant that games finished promptly, there was no waiting for lawns to be vacated, and no less than eight rounds could be completed on the Saturday, with everybody playing four games.

Interestingly, no player succeeded in winning all three 'block' games. And in two blocks, it was the highest handicapper who succeeded in 'topping' the block – **David McGrane** from Mosman (playing off 16) and **Bernie Gibson** from Manly (12). Handicap play is a great leveller!

In the 'knock-out' phase, first and second from each block played off against second and first from another block, in the 'green' draw'. And third and fourth played against fourth and third in the 'brown' draw. And it was in the latter that **Bronwyn McGrane** (20) from Mosman (who had finished fourth in her block, with just one win, steadily peeled off a succession of wins against **Sandra Colquhoun** (12), **Mal Russell** (18), **Ted Woodley** (4.5), and **Werner Kos** (10), to put herself into the final.

Meanwhile, in the 'green' draw, your correspondent managed to get past **Bernie Gibson**, **Werner Kos**, and **Ron Humpherson**, to reach the same point.

## The Final

The 'double elimination' rule meant that Bronwyn had to win twice in order to lift the trophy. It pains the writer to recall that some incredibly accurate hitting and steady hoop-running enabled her to do just that – and to leave him trailing in her wake, with convincing scores of 10-7 and 14-3. And her determined use of all the balls in setting up the lawn marked a worthy champion.

## The Plate Competition

Those who used up their two allowed losses early, could continue playing to a final, which **Gerard Barry** from Chatswood (playing off 10) won 10-1 against his Chatswood colleague, **Steven Marton** (6).

## The Reward

Yet again we have to thank Mal Russell, who very generously put \$500 on the table, a sum which was shared among the winner and runner-up in the main event, and the winner of the Plate.

## Postscript

Lest anyone involved in the organisation of the event should get too carried away, it must be pointed out that 'Summertime' proved something of a misnomer for a tournament played in spring with weather desperately reminiscent of mid-winter. The following weekend was of course the one which anyone else would have picked!

But it would be heartening to think that this is a competition which might find a permanent spot somewhere in the calendar.

## NSW AC Open Singles Championship by Alan Walsh



**Alan Walsh, 3<sup>rd</sup> in NSW Open**

This event was held at Cooks River on Sat, Sun & Mon from the 31st Oct to 2nd Nov. There were 8 contenders. The event was run as a series of best-of-3 knock-out matches.

**DAY 1** Everyone to start in the main KO (the X group) with the top 4 seeds playing the other 4 in the first round.

Callum Hyland, the top seed for the event was fully stretched by John Bartrop before winning 26-23, 22-26, 26tp-0.

Alan Walsh beat Kerri-Ann Organ 26-17, 26-3.

Tim Murphy beat David Stanton 26-9, 26tp-2.

Alan Honey beat Don Wright 26-10, 26-10.

**DAY 2** The 2nd round saw the winners of round 1 stay in the 'X' for the semi-finals.

Callum Hyland beat Alan Walsh 9-26, 26tpo-14, 26-12

Tim Murphy beat Alan Honey 13-26, 26tp-10, 26-18

The losers of round 1 dropped into the 'Y' group.

John Bartrop beat Kerri-ann Organ 14-26, 26-17, 26-21

David Stanton beat Don Wright 26-17, 26-21

**DAY 3** The 3rd round on day 3 saw the winners of day 2 in the 'X' stay in the 'X' to contest the final and determine 1st and 2nd overall.

Tim Murphy beat Callum Hyland 10-26tp, 26tp-0, 26-18.

The losers of the 'X' semi-finals dropped into the 'Z' to determine 3rd and 4th overall.

Alan Walsh beat Alan Honey 0-26tp, 26-17, 26-8.

The winners of the 'Y' on day 2 stayed in 'Y' to determine 5th and 6th overall.

John Bartrop beat David Stanton 26-22, 26-15.

The losers in the 'Y' on day 2 dropped into the 'W' to determine 7th and 8th overall.

Kerri-Ann Organ beat Don Wright 26-18, 26-10.

Hearty congratulations to Tim Murphy for being the overall champion in a very closely fought final.

## NSW Bronze Medal

Rob Elliott – who is a member of Cammeray, although it is not his main club – won the prestigious ACA Bronze Medal against a strong field with most of the top NSW players competing, winning all seven of his games.

## Beryl Chambers Final

David Surridge reached the finals of this event, but was not in his best form. It was won by David Scott of Ballina Cherry Street.

## Werner Kos triumphs!

Werner Kos has been playing extremely well lately, winning two tournaments in the course of a week. From 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> November he won all his games in the CNSW 9-and-over handicap singles. Peter Brown, our promising beginner, came second with four wins out of five, and it was pleasing to see Joanne Brown and Mary Goldsack both competing in this event.

Then between 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November, Werner won the Jamberoo Escape tournament with four wins out of five.



## Cammeray Bronze Final

Our talented trio of siblings, Chris, Peter and Joanne Brown, who only learned the game this year, dominated the club bronze championships. The final was between Chris and Peter, with Chris showing good tactics and fine shot-making to defeat Peter.



Chris Brown on his way to winning the bronze final



Peter Brown watched by referee Michael Strickland

## Umpiring Courses

Neil Hardie has been running umpiring courses this month. There were three participants at a course at Chatswood, and seven in one at Mosman. Because of the considerable interest, Neil is planning to run another course at Cammeray in early January. Anyone interested should contact him on [nhardie@ozemail.com.au](mailto:nhardie@ozemail.com.au)