



# Cammeray Croquet Club



NEWSLETTER

April 2016

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

## National Results

### ACA Gold Medal

This annual event is a 'Champion of Champions' competition, with the winners of each of the State 'Bronze Medals' competing against each other. And the winner of this year's NSW Bronze Medal was none other than Cammeray's **Alan Walsh**, who managed five wins out of ten, in what was of course a very strong field. and in doing so took his Handicap to *minus* 1.5

### ACA National Titles

The Australian Women's singles title this year went to Killara's **Alison Sharpe**, who did not lose a game, and the men's to **Robert Fletcher** (Vic), who *did* lose a game (25OTP-26) in the (best of five) final against **Simon Hockey** (SA), but recovered to win the next three. No Cammeray players, you will notice, but Robert had of course limbered up for the event by playing (and winning) the DACC at Cammeray in February.

### Eire Cup

Sad to say, the trophy competed for annually by the six States of Australia has slipped out of NSW's tenuous grasp. Last year's heroic effort could not be repeated, and the silverware returns to Victoria. Despite the presence of two Cammeray members **Peter Landrebe** and **Alan Walsh**, (who needless to say performed very creditably), the team could manage only fourth place! *Sic transit gloria ...*



## And closer to home ...

### Jamberoo Annual AC Tournament – 2016



Last year, astute readers may recall, we waxed lyrical on this event and the Jamberoo Club, the bucolic setting, the cattle 'lowing' in a nearby paddock, the players blowing in another, etc., etc. And we even noted that it was quite pleasant when it stopped raining.

This year's event reverted to March, and landed us in the middle of a heatwave. But

Cammeray's **Sue Eldridge-Smith** shrugged it off to win all her five games, beating **Sandra Colqhoun** into second place in the block.

**Margaret O'Brien** had three wins in her block, while your humble scribe had to learn what humility is all about in his.

## In this issue ...

### Results

- ACA Gold Medal Event
- ACA National Titles
- Eire Cup
- Jamberoo
- Mosman

### Coming events

- CNSW Silver Championships
- CNSW Gold Championships
- Pennant Competitions
- Cancer Council Morning Tea

### New members

- John Gilhooly
- Ralda Kirton

## Editorial

It was noted last month that the roles of President and Newsletter Editor had once again fallen into the same hands, so we thought it appropriate for the latter to ask the former what 'vision' he might have for the future of the Club.

The Presidential portion of the shared brain being less developed than the Editorial, some time to think was required. And initial reaction was to choke on the very notion of the 'vision thing'. But what ultimately emerged was a three-part thought-bubble.

It seems the Presidential hemisphere has in mind: 1. Trying to get more shade and shelter on the lawns; 2. The nurturing of beginners and the continuing mentoring of developing players; 3. Ensuring a smooth succession to the various offices within the Club.

Impressive, huh?

Comment or contributions can be sent to Michael Strickland  
[stricko@ozemail.com.au](mailto:stricko@ozemail.com.au)

## Mosman 'Bendigo Bank Bash' - 2016

Another great opportunity for Cammeray players to 'show off'!

**Margaret O'Brien** and **Graham Maynard** were tied for second place in their block, both with three wins out of five and identical net hoop-scores. But Graham took the money, having won the game played against each other.

**Steve Miles** won all five games in his block, a block which included **Annette du Preez**, who came second, and **Barbara McDonald**, who didn't.

Modesty forbids any mention of the success achieved by the writer.

## Coming events

### The 2016 Strathfield Tournament

The annual Strathfield tournament is this year grandly titled the *Thought Sport Carnival*, but we do know of a few Cammeray members who will be there, and we hope their thinking prowess lives up to expectations. More next month.

### CNSW Silver and Gold Championships

You are probably not too late to enter the CNSW Silver singles (and doubles) or Gold singles (and Doubles) which will be held at Tempe first two weeks in May – *check the CNSW website*.

### Pennant Competitions – June & July

Cammeray will once again be entering two teams in the Bronze Pennant competition, one in Silver, one in Gold, and one in the Premier Division. Play starts in June – Silver on Tuesdays, starting on 7<sup>th</sup> June, Gold on Wednesdays, and Bronze on Thursdays.

### And the annual Morning Tea

Save the date for **Australia's Biggest Morning Tea**, this year on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May**, at 10.30am. For the Cancer Council. More anon.

## New Members



**John Gilhooly**, who joined the club recently, has been playing the game for 17 years, having been a co-founder of the Milton-Ulladulla Club in 1999. Over that time his handicap has dropped from 22 to 1.5, and he confidently assures us he has played 492 competition games! How can he be so sure? It will surprise no-one to learn that he was once an accountant, and it is all painstakingly recorded on Excel spreadsheets.

What the spreadsheets also record is an epic tussle with fellow Milton-Ulladulla member Jim Elston. Over the years they played each other no less than 167 times, all duly noted, and John sees it as a vindication of the Handicap System that they ended up 83-84.



**Ralda Kirton** has been playing at Mosman for the past 3 years, but cannot get enough of the game. Look out for her at Bronze sessions, although her fondness for travel may mean extended absences.

In an earlier life, Ralda was a trained nurse and midwife, and oddly enough had never played any sport at all before croquet, being distracted the arts, needlework, and the cinema.

## 100 years ago ...

*In line with the well-established practice of this nefarious publication, the following piece has been unashamedly lifted from Croquet World, an on-line periodical, in which writer Mike Orgill recently revisited a famous book on our game, "Croquet", written by the English player Lord Tollemache in 1914.*

*The original article can be found in full at: <http://croquetworld.com/Game/tollemache.asp>*

Orgill writes: "Bentley Lyonel John Tollemache, 3rd Baron Tollemache, known to the croquet world as Lord Tollemache, was born on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1883, and died on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 1955. He was the owner of some 35,726 acres of estates in Suffolk, Cheshire, and other English counties. [Including more than a few croquet lawns – Ed.]



The first and only edition of his *Croquet* appeared in 1914. Its publication was the capstone of the Edwardian golden age of croquet.

But even as *Croquet* hit the bookstores, the Edwardian era was coming to a shocking

end. Hundreds of thousands of young men were about to be crushed in the maw of war when a correspondent to *The Sphere* wrote:

*Croquet is far from ... a grandmotherly game ... [For] the best players in open tournaments, it is an exceedingly skilful game. Big breaks are not to be made by the mere tyro ...*

Less than two months later, the August 1914 issue of the London weekly, *The Spectator*, is filled with news of war and rumours of war. Skimming forward in the same issue to the book review section we see ... a capsule review of Lord Tollemache's *Croquet*:

*A 'high authority' in the croquet world [the anonymous reviewer wrote] recently asserted that there were not more than half-a-dozen players who could play a four-ball break in its ideal perfection. Lord Tollemache's eminently practical book ought to add largely to that number, since he gives full details of the best methods he is in the habit of employing."*

Orgill surmises that this 'high authority' was probably Tollemache himself (!) and adds that the book does shine quite a light on pre-WWI croquet, before concluding: "How different the competitive standard must have been in those Edwardian days!"