



Cammeray Croquet Club



NEWSLETTER

August 2016

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

CNSW AC Pennants – Cammeray ‘A’ v Cammeray ‘B’

The last match of the NSW Pennants Competition saw Cammeray’s two Bronze teams fight it out yet again, but this year for the honour of taking second place in the division, which had already been won by an undefeated Chatswood.

And a good crowd turned up to enjoy the spectacle, outnumbering the players on the lawn by about 4 to 1! At one stage we even had almost as many referees available as players.



Cammeray ‘B’ – L to R: Peter, Ian, Sandra, and Lucy.

In the singles, **Peter Colquhoun** beat **Sue Eldridge-Smith**, and **Ian Lucas** beat **Sue Nicholas**. In the doubles, **Sandra Colquhoun** and **Lucy Rees** beat **Warren Yates** and **Roger Liles**, to complete a 3-0 win for Cammeray B. There may be no significance, but it seems this is the third year running that ‘B’ has triumphed over ‘A’

So congratulations to the winners! And it is a wonderful reflection on the spirit within the Club that the event could have attracted so much interest, and become such a delightful festive occasion.

We have already reported that our Silver and Gold teams both won their competitions. For the sake of completeness, we must also report that the usual ‘Premier’ Pennants competition (for those with handicaps of 4.5 and lower) had to be abandoned. It seems that no other club in NSW could field a team! Cammeray, it can be said, could have produced two such teams.

CNSW ‘Champion of Champions’

More congratulations to Cammeray Club Champion **Alan Walsh**, who won this event, playing the champions of seven other clubs.

Sydney Premier League

The semi-finals saw **Rosie Landrebe**, who won the ‘round-robin’ stage, beat **Ted Salter** 17-16, and **Peter Landrebe** beat **Alan Walsh** 24 - 12, both matches that could easily have gone the other way. The final was a different story. Rosie never took croquet. And Peter gave a near flawless display to win 26tp – 0. Well done, Peter!



With another good crowd, and another of Sue Eldridge-Smith’s soups to warm them, this was a terrific night’s entertainment.

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Editorial

August is really mid-winter – a time for hibernation or, for the less indolent, a little revelling in the fluffy white precipitation to be found on higher ground to the south. And that is where your editor will be for at least part of the month. Try not to miss him too much.

But before escaping to the slopes, he has cobbled this issue together with just a few results and some snippets from last month’s Committee Meeting. Nothing too dramatic, but enough to leave an indelible impression of the strength of the Club.

Three examples: 1. almost one-third of the total membership turning up at the Club for the annual clash of the Bronze Pennants teams; 2. the very idea that we might have fielded two teams in a Premier Division competition; 3. the continuing willingness of so many senior members to give their time to helping aspiring players.

We are indeed fortunate.

Comment on this issue, or contributions for future issues, can be sent to:

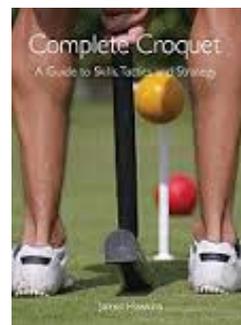
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Committee deliberations ...

From time to time, your Committee meets, and from time to time something emerges which might be of interest to you, dear reader. To make sure you do not miss a thing, you can of course access the Minutes on the Club website. But to spare you such drastic action, we can report the following from our July meeting:

- **Club telephone:** we have a new phone in the Clubhouse, and a new number: 0477 603 151. More astute members may recognise this as a Mobile. Some may even have grandchildren who can show the writer how to work it.
- **New mallets:** thanks to the intercession of our secretary, we have been offered a grant by North Sydney Council for the purchase of some additional mallets for the 'hire' collection. But these mallets are not merely for hire, and are available for members who may be wanting to try something different, perhaps with a view to buying.
- **Golf Croquet:** a request was recently made to the Committee for a 'designated' session during the week (in addition to the regular Sunday sessions) when GC might be played. The Committee was not unsympathetic, although the expression 'thin end of the wedge' did come up! But it was noted that members are free to play GC whenever there is no other 'designated' session in the weekly programme.
- **Dates for next year:** these are not finally settled, but it does look as though the annual Birthday Tournament will be held from 2nd to 5th March, and the Dixon Advisory Classic from 9th to 12th March 2017.
- **Beginner sessions:** introductory lessons, for those who have not played before, continue to be held early on Saturday mornings, and we are most grateful to Neil Hardie for taking these over in Juan Roberson's absence. From 10.00am, however, *any member* who may still feel reticent about joining the Bronze playing sessions is welcome to come along for further "supervised play", with the aim of gaining more confidence. This is in addition to the session run by Bev Westwood at 12.30pm on Wednesdays.
- **Dress code for Pennants:** it was noted that all Pennant team players are given a Club shirt, and yet several have appeared on the lawns this year in something less sartorially appealing. Next year, Team Captains will be asked to encourage their players to wear the Club shirt, a name tag, and appropriate navy blue/white clothing, preferably with the Club logo. Not too much to ask?
- **Club flag (or pennant):** if you have ever looked up on one of our festive occasions, you may have noticed a very sad looking triangular pennant flying from the mast above the clubhouse. This was once navy blue, with the pale blue initials C C C emblazoned across it. But the weather has taken its toll, and it was thought that something a little brighter might be called for. Matters are in hand ...
- **The Club GC Championship:** is to be played on Sunday 21st August, and
- **The Club AC Silver Div'n Championship,** from 15th to 31st August, with the Final on Saturday 3rd September.

Croquet & the Olympics



*Mention has been made in past issues of this Newsletter of the very worthy book by James Hawkins – **Complete Croquet**. If you haven't yet found your way to it, do now!*

In the meantime, we are indebted to James for the following story, which is extracted verbatim from his work, and which seems very fitting with the 2016 Olympics this month ...

Paris 1900

"Croquet's popularity had spread globally by 1900, so much so that it featured at the Paris Olympic Games that year. This was the first Olympic sport to include women (and one of the few, even now, to feature women competing alongside men in the same event). In many other respects, however, it was less than successful.

There were just ten competitors, nine of whom were from Paris. The sole 'outsider' had made the journey from Belgium, but he failed to complete the first round of play. This was perhaps understandable, as the event was inconveniently held over three successive weeks, which may have explained the absence of any other visiting nations. France won all the medals, although it is not certain whether more than one pair entered the doubles event.

Publicity was poor. At least one participant went to his grave years later, still unaware that he had competed in the Olympic Games. And over the whole event, there was just one single spectator – an elderly Englishman who had travelled from Nice to watch.

Four years later, Croquet, of a sort, returned to the Olympics in St Louis, USA ... [where] it was re-named 'roque', and underwent some rule changes, to make it more 'American'."



Paris, 1900

Sadly, that seems to have been the last of Olympic Croquet.