



# Cammeray Croquet Club



## NEWSLETTER December 2016

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

### ACA Australian Open Doubles 2016

**Peter Landrebe**, playing with Troy McCallum (Qld), finished in third place behind the Fletcher brothers, Robert and Malcolm, and the beaten finalists, Ian Dumergue (WA) and Stephen Forster (Vic).

### ACA Australian Open Singles 2016

In the singles event which followed, **Alan Walsh**, **Mike Hughes**, and **Barbara McDonald** upheld the honour of the Club in another very strong field of 24. Alan won the Plate Competition (for those who didn't make the cut after the Burrige-Swiss rounds). Mike made the cut, but fell in the first knock-out round. And Barbara had to remind herself of the win recorded at the bottom of this column!

### CNSW Gold Handicap Singles 2016

This annual event attracted only four entries this year, but two of them were from Cammeray: **David Stanton** and **David Surridge**. And they were winner and runner-up respectively. Congratulations!

### CNSW Bronze Handicap Singles 2016

The three Cammeray members in this event: **Sue Eldridge-Smith**, **Lucy Rees**, and **Ralda Kirton**, finished in that order, but behind the winner, Torben Albaek of Chatswood.

### Club AC Handicap Competition

We can at last report that the final, between **Ian Lucas** and **Lucy Rees**, was won by Ian – for the second year in a row. Well done, Ian!

In a postscript to this event, we regret to tell you that, only a couple of days later, Lucy fell badly while on her morning walk, and has put her left hand out of action for what is likely to be several weeks, if not months. We wish you well, Lucy, and hope to see you back on the lawns before you forget everything!



And talking of falls, we must add that **Maureen Cope**, a long-standing member and very generous donor of prize-money for the Birthday Tournament, has also gone down, injuring a shoulder, and will be sidelined for several weeks. We shall be thinking of you, Maureen, and waiting for Mal's reports on your progress.

Ladies, please be more careful!

### Club Gold Division Championship

At long last we can report the completion of this competition, and announce the winner as **Barbara McDonald**. Well done, Barb!

### Bumper Christmas Issue!!!



#### with the season's greetings

'tis the season of excess and extravagance, when we bring you not one, not two, but *three* whole pages of news, notices, puzzles, art (see above), and humour. Dive right in!

#### On this page

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- Club Christmas Party

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### Editorial

Last month we mentioned that two members of the current Committee had indicated a desire to step down, and we invited expressions of interest.

*Mirabile dictu*, it seems that one very able member has stepped forward (if not yet up). But we are still looking for more.

If you think you may have something to offer, or would just like to know what exactly we are looking for, please have a quiet word with the writer.

In the meantime, we can offer you ...

## Coaching



We mentioned last month the very generous offer from **Rosie** and **Peter Landrebe** to give a series of lessons to club members and a few other local players. These have proved enormously popular, not to say helpful, and have been suspended temporarily only because of the work being carried out on the lawns. Given the extraordinary enthusiasm shown by Landrebe *ménage*, we can

confidently predict a resumption before too long.

Those who participated will recall that you were asked to donate a Christmas present for a child, which Rosie and Pete would pass on to a worthy cause (the present, that is, not the child). If you have still not put your present in the box at the Club, there is still time.

We shall keep you posted of further lessons. In the meantime, thank you very much, Pete and Rosie!



## Golf Croquet Fun Day

A date for your new diary! **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January**. Details soon.

## Christmas Party

This was another huge success, with some 40 revellers enjoying the sumptuous fare provided by **Sue Eldridge-Smith**, who had the help of **Marg O'Brien**, **Penny Garrett**, **Kerry Phillips**, **Beverley Westwood**, (two of whose granddaughters once again waited on us) **Ralda Kirton**, **Jan Thomas**, and **Pam Cameron-Smith**.

With no celebrities on hand this year, awards and trophies were distributed by the President, with appropriate decorum and gravitas (or so it seemed to the writer). And for the benefit of those who couldn't be there, we report that **Margaret O'Brien** was a very deserving recipient of both the *Mila Kotala* Award for outstanding service to the Club, and the *Stephen Howes* Trophy for the most improved player of 2016. Well done, Marg!



All other club competitions and trophy winners have been reported on elsewhere in this and previous newsletters.



*New members, Peter and Linda Blackhall, with a startled Nancy Hicks.*

## Some food for thought ...

In the course of delivering their recent series of lessons, Pete and Rosie were surprised to discover that it is common, in both social play and indeed in competition, for games to be played to the rules of '*Advanced Handicap Play*' – for which, see under those very words where they appear in the heading to *Appendix 5* of the Laws of Association Croquet (p56 of the little green book).

In short, under Advanced Handicap rules, players not only have bisques, but also lifts (including 'contact' lifts) to contend with.

It seems that this is a development which has occurred only in the past ten years or so. In earlier times, 'Handicap' competitions were played to 'Ordinary' rather than 'Advanced' rules, and were hugely popular, being seen as giving either side an even chance, and posing a novel set of challenges for the stronger player.

Rosie has ventured to suggest that adding lifts to handicap games can advantage the stronger player considerably, and effectively nullify several of the bisques which are on offer to the weaker player. Her reasoning is particularly apt where the weaker player has not had much experience or practice at setting a good 'leave'.

She has gone so far as to propose that for sessions like our Friday mornings, when all grades are made welcome, and games may be played between players of quite disparate abilities, we should forget 'Advanced' play (*ie* cut out 'lifts'), and rely purely on bisques to even the game up.

But if a player is drawn against an opponent whose handicap is within two or three marks of the player's own handicap, then bisques can be dispensed with, and 'Level' play should be the go, with the usual lifts given under Advanced Rules.

This is the sort of thing on which there should be no shortage of opinion!! If you would like to venture yours, please e-mail the Editor.

## Club Mallets

Most members will be aware of the collection of mallets in the clubhouse. These are for general use, particularly for those wanting to try something new or different. And we have added to them over the year. In particular, we bought a new RPM, and club member **Lisa Kelshaw**, who represents RPM, has recently donated yet another new one. Thank you very much, Lisa!

## A Question for you ...

Jack, playing Blue, has missed an attempt at running 2-back, and the ball is resting against the leg of the hoop (Fig 1) with Yellow where it has been neatly placed as a 'receiver' ball on the other side of the hoop. Yellow is for Hoop 1.

Jill, playing Yellow, calls you to watch her shot. She shoots gently, and Yellow comes to rest in the hoop and in contact with Blue (Figs 2 & 3). You announce that a roquet has been made.

Jill now takes croquet, with the balls where they lie (Fig 4), and her ball completes running the hoop in the process. But Jack questions whether the hoop has in fact been scored. *What do you think?\**



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4

## ... and another Question

This time Jill has been responsible for leaving Jack's Blue ball against the leg of the hoop (as in Fig 1 above) from where it cannot be played to any other ball on the lawn.

Jack plays Black instead, and roquets Yellow, which he croquets to 3-back, before hitting Black back towards, but short of Corner 1, where Blue still cannot hit it.

Jill misses with Red at Yellow, but Blue still has no shot at any ball.

Jack asks if he may lift Blue, and play from A-Baulk, where he would now have a rush on Black to his hoop (2-back.) *What do you think?\**

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## Ecclesiastical Footnote

Readers may recall some months ago we quoted Richard Barnes, of Exeter, UK, who styled himself the "Square on the Hypotenuse at the Church of St Pythagoras and all Angles", and compared the Church of England with the game of Croquet.

Perhaps of even greater interest to some of our members, he has also likened the modern Church to a quadratic equation with two valid solutions, e.g.  $x^2 - 9x + 8 = 0$ ,  $(x-1)(x-8) = 0$ ; so  $x=1$ , for those who cannot accept women as priests or bishops, and  $x=8$ , for those who have accepted women as priests and bishops.

In a parting thought, he suggests that writing a *cubic* equation that includes gay bishops be left as a holiday exercise for the reader ... it is that time of the year!

## And some seasonal humour

*Readers may yet find themselves examining the contents of the odd Christmas cracker in the coming weeks. Such things have been known to prompt the occasional wry smile, but more commonly inspire a desperate groan. So why not be prepared with a few little gems of your own – or rather of mine (or of whomever I filched them from!) Take 'em away ...*



### Misers:

Misers are not much fun to live with. But they do make great ancestors.

### Positive re-inforcement:

A pat on the back, though only a few vertebrae removed from a kick in the pants, is miles ahead in producing results.

### Life:

Don't take life too seriously. You'll never get out of it alive.

### Tact:

Tact is the knack of making a point without making an enemy.

### Help:

If ever you need a helping hand, you'll find one at the end of your arm.

### Experience:

Experience is a hard teacher. She gives the test first, and the lesson afterward.

*and perhaps with our game in mind ...*

### Failure:

What great things would we bother to attempt if we knew we could not fail?

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## Editorial Footnote

*\* Answers to questions posed in the adjoining column will be published next month (including any ecclesiastical equations which may be forthcoming from readers!).*

Comment on this issue, or contributions for future issues, can be sent to the editor: Michael Strickland  
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