



Cammeray Croquet Club



Bumper Christmas Issue Newsletter

December 2018

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

Sydney Premier League Finals

On Thursday 23rd November, after several weeks of round-robin play, the semi-finals featured **Peter Landrebe** beating **Rob Elliott** 23-17, and **Alison Sharpe** beating **Rosie Landrebe** 26-18.

The final which followed never lacked interest and entertainment, even for those who had not sampled the delightful supper on offer.



Alison opened with a faultless nine-hoop break, and set a perfect leave. But Pete hit with his lift shot, and proceeded to run right round to rover, peeling Alison's forward ball through 4-back and penult on the way, with the intention of pegging it off and leaving himself with two balls to Alison's one. But he couldn't quite manage the rover peel, and was forced to set a leave for a contact lift.



Peter, Rosie, Rob, and Alison - limbering up before the action, urged on by David Stanton (Tournament Manager)

Alison was back in the game, and looked to have a very good chance of capitalising on Pete's little slip-up, when she inexplicably missed a roquet – one which she would have hit 99 times out of a hundred – and left it open to Peter to finish off, and to lift the trophy for a third time. Well done, all!

Club Xmas Party and Presentation

With the weather in the morning changing from cloudy and mild, to very windy and very hot, plans changed accordingly, and 38 partygoers eventually sat down to lunch *inside* the clubhouse.

But we were able to move outside, under the olive trees, for the presentation of trophies, with Mayor Jilly Gibson once again performing the honours.



Most competitions have already been written up at length in these pages, but we can now add that the 'Stephen Howes Trophy' for the most-improved bronze/silver player went to **Werner Kos**, and the 'Mila Kotala Award' for outstanding service to the club was presented to **Juan Roberson**, now domiciled in Leura, and sadly unable to receive the honour in person. Congratulations, gentlemen!



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Christmas Greetings!

Yes, it's that time of the year when reason gives way to season, and sanity doesn't always get a look-in. People get strangely carried away.



Here at your editor's desk, of course, nothing like that happens, and we labour on undistracted.

But it is also a time to reflect on some of the highlights of the past twelve months. And sitting through the NSW presentation lunch the other day, we were reminded of the extraordinary year that one of our number has enjoyed on the lawn.

Steve Miles was presented as winner of the NSW Platinum Singles, the NSW Gold Brooch, and the NSW Open Handicap event (the Beryl Chambers Trophy), and as runner-up in the Fransted Trophy.



(Foolishly, he omitted to bring a car to take all his booty home with him.)

He also managed some success in local events and, with a quite exceptional run of wins, he reduced his handicap to a mere 2½. Well done, sir!!

We wish a very enjoyable holiday to all our readers, and may the new year bring you a smidgen of the same sort of success!

Seasonably favourable comment can be sent to the editor: stricko@ozemail.com.au

House and Grounds

Teething troubles with the new locks on the entrance gates have now been resolved. **David Stanton** is adding some shade cloth to some of our shelters, and has also found time to build a new cover for the 'super-sopper' – prompting one observer to ask whether the club could afford to feed a dog of the size for which the structure was clearly intended. And we can report that a new 'sponge blanket' for the sopper drum has since been added. (Interestingly, the recent violent downpour drained incredibly quickly, and the lawns were perfectly playable next day, without any 'sopping'!)

Top-dressing of the lawns should take place over the Christmas and New Year period, minimising disruption to play.

Club Division Championships

Back in August, we noted *Platinum* as won by **David Stanton**. In October, it was reported that *Gold* was won by **Barb McDonald**. And *Bronze*, won by **Sandra Colquhoun**, was reported last month.

Now we can record that the *Silver* division has been won by **Ian Lucas**, who beat **Evelyn Humpherson** 18-12, 26-3, in the best of three final. Congratulations, all!



CNSW Competitions

Last month saw both the Gold and Bronze Division *Handicap* Singles competitions played at Tempe. These are played to a base handicap, not just the difference between the two players' handicaps, resulting in both players enjoying a bisque or two.

In the Gold event, Cammeray's **David Surridge** managed a narrow win over Ted Woodley of Chatswood. And in the Bronze, **Lucy Rees** managed a magnificent roquet to squeak home on a 'golden hoop' in the final against **Sue Eldridge-Smith**. Welcome back, Lucy!



And we learned at the presentation last weekend that **Sue Eldridge-Smith** had won the 'Elsie Wall' trophy – for performance across a number of specified CNSW events through the year.

Next Year's Committee

Apart from the President, whose three-year term will have ended, all current members have offered to stand for re-election in 2019. So there will be a vacancy, and you are warmly invited to put yourself forward. This is no time to be shy. **The AGM will be held on Saturday morning, 16th February.**

More Dates for Next Year

The Dixon Tournament will run over Friday 1st, Saturday 2nd, and Sunday 3rd March, with qualifying games beforehand. There will be the usual welcoming 'Get Together' on the evening of Thursday 28 February. And **The Birthday Tournament** will be played on Thursday 2nd, Friday 3rd, and Saturday 4th May.

Xmas Trivia

Despite all the protestations above, we would be remiss, (indeed, totally failing in our duty) if we did not give you at least a little practice in the subtle art of groaning – ahead of the exercise you will be called upon to perform shortly when the usual Xmas crackers are produced.



So we offer the following collection of *bon mots*, culled from who knows where:

Experience: The best substitute for experience is being sixteen years old.

Timing: Years of economic research have revealed that the best time to buy is invariably last year.

Self-delusion: Pulling your stomach in as you step on the scales!

Laziness: The habit of resting *before* you get tired!

Risk: If risk were something always to be avoided, Michelangelo would have painted the Sistine floor.

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Still on the trivial, your editor has recently been reading more on the early history of our game.

Its origins, as you know, are mired in haze and conjecture, but it is commonly accepted as having emerged from Ireland in the mid-18th century.

Any rules that might have accompanied it, however, were rapidly lost, although it seems that an Irishman with a mallet in his hand was to be regarded as an authority – and might well have proved so, if anyone had bothered to ask.

But there were many of them, with as many differing opinions, and nobody really did bother to ask.

So, as ever, it fell to the British to pull the game into shape ...

If you are still looking for some seasonal refreshment, don't forget Julian Todd at ...

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