



# Cammeray Croquet Club



## NEWSLETTER February 2017

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

### Rosie Landrebe writes ...



Rosie bearing gifts ...

Thank you for the lovely pressies donated by the terrific members of Cammeray Croquet Club to the Inner West Mission Beat and Salvation Army for refugee and indigenous children Christmas 2016.

We donated about 18 presents in all and a small amount of cash.

The volunteers were shocked to see such a big donation in one go! Thank you very much Cammeray CC for making Christmas a little brighter for kids of the inner west.

And she adds: *"Pete and I will be hosting more coaching this year. Charitable donations will not be obligatory, but nice. If you have a special cause you would like us to donate to just let me know."*

### Golf Croquet Fun Day Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Jan

This was another triumph for **Sue Eldridge-Smith** and her team (**Penny Garret, Kerry Phillips, Jan Thomas, Ralda Kirton, Lucy Rees,** and **Margaret O'Brien**) whose organisational and catering skills made for a great day, enjoyed by some twenty-five very relaxed (and well wined and dined) participants.

Friendly games of doubles GC, and a post-prandial game of 'Pirates', meant everyone came away a winner!



Lunch in the shade

### Club AGM – 10.00am Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb

A final reminder that our Annual General Meeting, including the election of two new Committee Members, will be held in the Clubhouse, **on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2017, starting at 10.00am.**

### A Plea from our Lawns Manager

A short while ago it was found that someone had hammered in one of our centre-pegs *while the peg extension was still in place!!*

This is a major 'faux pas', unworthy of a Cammeray member, and required a lot of strenuous work in twisting and grinding the peg and extension to separate them. Enough.

### In this issue

- A Thank You to the Club
- Report on GC Fun Day
- Notice of Club AGM
- Notice of Misdemeanour
- Notice of 'Working Bee'
- Notice of Twilight Sessions of Play
- Annual 'Festival of Croquet'
- Other forthcoming Competitions

### Editorial

As we slowly emerge from the lethargy and torpor induced by unnecessarily oppressive meteorological conditions (not to mention the ennui engendered by reading too many Newsletters) we start to see signs of action looming over the horizon.

A couple of recent activities are reported in the column to the left, but for the most part, this issue again looks at future activity.

That said, we must start by reporting that we do now have nominations for the two committee vacancies mentioned last month. And we have also filled the vacant position of internal auditor (with a further volunteer emerging as reserve!).

Now we are looking for someone with technical drawing skills – to assist in preparing designs of proposed shelter sheds to put to the Council. Do such skills exist among the membership of the club? Or among family or friends? We would love to hear from you.

Comment on this issue, or contributions for future issues, can be sent to the editor: Michael Strickland [stricko@ozemail.com.au](mailto:stricko@ozemail.com.au)

## And a Working Bee on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>!!

If you can lend a hand at any stage from 10.00am on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February (*ie* the day after the AGM) we have a number of little projects to sink our teeth into. Chief among these are:

- Laying some protective matting on the worn patches of grass around the concrete access to the front door of the clubhouse;
- Laying some more pavers under the barbecue and on the very worn patches around the equipment boxes; and
- Setting more timber boarding at ground level along the western boundary of the grounds, to prevent balls escaping.

And the catering corps have kindly offered to provide a light lunch!

## Twilight Sessions

With the horribly enervating conditions experienced of late, several members have found relief in twilight sessions, *open to all grades*, and starting at 5.00pm on Monday and Thursday evenings. Come along, grab a game, and a little refreshment.

These will continue until further notice (although not during the competition week referred to below) or until unimaginably cooler weather drives everyone indoors.

## Annual 'Festival of Croquet' in March



As previously advised, this year's *BirthDay Tournament* will be held over the weekend of Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March.

And this will be followed by the fourth annual *Dixon Advisory Croquet Classic*, with qualifying during the intervening week, and play over the weekend of

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

**So the lawns will be closed from the morning of Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March and will not be open for regular play until Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March.**

But this is a terrific opportunity to see how the game can be played! The current World No 1 and two of his brothers will once again be playing, along with a slew of highly talented men and women from around the country. Admire their shot-making, and watch how they establish and maintain the break, and how they set a leave!

## Forthcoming Competitions

Those interested in playing a bit of competition croquet themselves should know that there are Club 'Open' competitions coming up:

- at **Mosman**, from Friday 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March;
- at **Strathfield**, from Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March; and
- at **Jamberoo**, from Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March.

For more details of these, please contact our Games Captain, Steve Miles, who also advises that the **Cammeray Handicap Championship** will run from Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April.

And CNSW can offer you the **3 & under Singles**, later this month, and the **Win Dickinson Trophy** in April.

## Coaching Corner - Bisques



*With handicap competitions looming, including our own BirthDay Tournament, we have scoured the web for advice, specifically on the use of bisques, and offer this edited extract from the*

*records of Bowdon CC in Cheshire, UK.*

<http://www.bowdoncroquet.co.uk>

### The Opening

If you are receiving many bisques, it is always better to win the toss and put your opponent in. Your opponent would almost certainly have put you in, intending to hit with the fourth ball, and have a reasonable chance of a break with *all* the balls in play.

But if you lose the toss, and are compelled to start, play to near Corner IV. Your opponent will probably lay a 'tice' on the west boundary. If so, go for it. Don't join your partner ball! Missing (not that you need do so) from Corner I will land you in the vicinity of Corner II, and make it harder for your opponent to establish a break.

### The Half-Bisque

If you have a half-bisque, use it early in the game, if possible. The best use you can put it to is in laying your first break, with a full-bisque immediately to follow.

But this is by no means its only use. Full-bisques are often expended when a half-bisque would serve just as well, *eg* where there may be little prospect of your scoring even a single point but you need to gain the innings to prevent your opponent from scoring several. This is ...

### The Defensive Bisque

A bisque can of course be used to advance your own position, but it may equally well be used 'defensively', *ie* to prevent your opponent from making headway.

Either way, the first question to ask is *what advantage might your opponent reasonably obtain if you decide not to take a bisque at all?*

He may be in a position from where it will be difficult to set up a break, or he might be forced to play his 'forward ball', which may have few if any points to make, and you could well afford to surrender the innings.

### The Offensive Bisque

Most satisfying of all is the bisque deliberately anticipated *while you have still a stroke in hand* – ideally to establish a simple four-ball break – but this can seldom be done unless you first shoot at (or play up to) *the most distant ball on the lawn*. Distant balls nearly always need tidying up.