



Cammeray Croquet Club



NEWSLETTER

February 2018

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

The Cammeray Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM was held last Saturday 17th February. A well-attended gathering heard of progress over the year and a few ideas for the future. The Minutes are already posted on the Club website! Just log in through the Members/Guests tab at the bottom LH side of the home page.

Equally impressive was the number of members who took the trouble to apologise for not attending. All very heartening!

And our treasurer was pleased to advise that the true figures for 2017 were even better than we thought! A couple of receipts late in December could not be identified at the time, so were entered in the accounts as funds received in error, and shown as a liability to be repaid. In fact they were payments for corporate functions, and were *our money*. So the true operating surplus was very much in line with that of recent years.



A wistful Treasurer

The meeting also heard of plans to install a water bubbler on the skate-board end of the lawns, and to install self-locking gates at both the Ernest Street and Tennis Court entrances to the grounds. Both these projects have been approved by North Sydney Council, and we are now in negotiation over how, when, and by whom the work is to be carried out and paid for.

The 2018 Dixon Advisory Classic



This year's event has again attracted a very strong field, eight of whom are ranked in the top 100 in the world. They include, five interstate entrants, and two from overseas.

Fourteen players receive direct entry by virtue of their ranking, and another six will fight it out for the remaining two places in a qualifying competition

The qualifying matches will be played on **Wednesday 28th February** and **Thursday morning, 1st March**.



The afternoon of **Thursday 1st March**, from 2.30pm, will be given over to a social occasion. Members are warmly invited to come along, greet arriving competitors, meet staff members of Dixon Advisory, and enjoy a little Golf Croquet. At 4.30pm, there will be a wine-tasting kindly provided once more by our good friend Julian Todd of *Backvintage*.

And the main event will be played from **Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th March**.

In this issue ...

- Club AGM
- The Dixon Advisory Classic
- Billets
- Club Clothing
- Painting
- Coaching
- The Birthday Tournament
- A little reminder

Editorial

Alert readers of these pages (are there any others?) will have noticed that this has become almost a February/March issue! Several and various reasons could be advanced (but will not be). Suffice to say we shall try to produce further reports and ruminations a little earlier next month.

If you attended the recent AGM, you will have come away encouraged, I hope, by the progress the club is making.

We managed several improvements to the clubhouse and grounds in the past year, and more are planned.

Membership is holding up. Only one member's renewal subscription (due by 1st January) remains outstanding. And we have several more interested applicants for whom we shall be starting a beginners' course next month.

Our finances are sound. Our spirits are up!

In that light, I ask you to give due thought to the points made in the continuation of this column below ...

As ever, comment on this issue, and/or contribution to the next, can be sent to ...

Michael Strickland
stricko@ozemail.com.au

After the final, on Sunday afternoon, along with the usual presentation, Julian will be on hand again to share some more of his wares with you.



Billets

For some strange reason, several members who have been regular hosts in recent years were unable to extend the same hospitality this year. So we were obliged to cast the net a little wider. But it is very pleasing to report that we have once again been able to accommodate everyone who was looking for a bed. And we now have several new names on our list of potential hosts! Many thanks to all concerned.

Club clothing

Ralda Kirton tells us she is ready to take orders. Short-sleeved tops (men's 100% cotton, women's 95%) are \$33. Long-sleeved (men's and women's, 60% cotton 40% polyester) are \$35. Navy blue Rugby Jumpers are \$40. Blue fleeces are \$45. And Blue reversible vests are \$41. Caps and hats are \$16. An order form should be found in the clubhouse. Or speak to Ralda: 0413 185 527

Painting

Following the very successful 'painting bee', in December, which saw several seats beautifully rendered green, in keeping with the clubhouse décor, all remaining seats are now in place, and we are planning to finish the painting in March. Don't go away!

Coaching

We now have at least three accredited coaches, and several more members whose experience is invaluable. And we have a plan!

Juan Roberson has laboured long and hard to produce a terrific series of exercises which should help anyone climb above the lower levels of Bronze, and these will be introduced shortly in the 'mentored play' sessions on Saturday mornings. If you feel curious, or in need of such help, do feel free to join us.

And before very much longer we shall be organising coaching for Bronze pennants teams on Tuesday mornings, and for Silver on Thursday mornings.

The Cammeray Birthday Tournament ...

A reminder that Cammeray's own annual open handicap tournament, for those with handicaps from 0 to 12, will once again be played in **May**, this year from **Thursday 10th** to **Saturday 12th** (and we are also told that Sunday 11th is Mothers' Day).

And another little reminder ...

As chair of the NSW Tournament Committee, **David Stanton** would like to encourage members to use the Croquet NSW website to enter NSW tournaments. Apart from simplicity, one of the advantages is being able to see who else has entered!

Committee matters...

All of the 2017 committee offered themselves for re-election to the same positions for 2018. That is both a blessing and a curse.

It is mightily encouraging that so many experienced and capable people are prepared to keep on 'putting their hands up'. And it certainly makes things easier for us all over the coming twelve months. But at the same time it is also delaying the unavoidable.

Next year, for 2019, we shall need at least one if not two new office-bearers.

Your Secretary is very ably supported by a 'minute secretary', but he is now looking for a share even more of his work, and is happy to provide training. A job description, detailing the sort of tasks which might be taken on, can be made available.

And the President will be completing his three-year term, which requires him to stand down. A replacement need not necessarily come from the current committee. It is not a particularly onerous task. It is what one chooses to make of it. And anyone who may feel moved to take on the position can be assured of plenty of help in finding their feet.

The Treasurer also has assistance in counting the money.

Indeed it is a distinctive feature of the Committee that every member has a role to play, and shares in the work that needs to be done.

We are talking about a very congenial and harmonious bunch. So do not be daunted by the prospect of joining them!!

Curiosity corner...

If you are anything like me, it has probably never occurred to you to wonder where the Queen and Prince Philip met. But if the book I was reading the other day is to be believed, their first encounter occurred *over a game of croquet* at Dartmouth Naval College in 1939.