



Cammeray Croquet Club



NEWSLETTER

January 2016

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

Happy New Year!

In case you have been so successful at hiding away over the holiday period that you have not noticed, we feel obliged to point out that the clock has ticked over into 2016, and we wish you a very successful and rewarding new year.

January is a relatively quiet month in the Cammeray calendar, but it is just the calm before the storm. This year February brings us ...

Eire Cup Team Practice

The NSW State team (*see next page*) will be practising at Cammeray on **Friday 12th February**. Lawns will be unavailable to members for the whole day, or at least until about 4.00pm. But by way of compensation, you are cordially invited to come along at any time during the day to watch, and to join the team for drinks afterwards – compliments of their sponsors.



Annual General Meeting

The Club's AGM, which will include the election of office bearers and six committee members, will be held at the Clubhouse on **Saturday 13th February** at **10.00am**. Pop it into in your diary.

The Birthday Tournament ...

... will be played from **Friday 19th to Sunday 21st February**, and has attracted entrants from as far afield as Orange, Ulladulla, Coogee, Epping, Killara, and Chatswood, who join a contingent of five from Mosman and three from Cammeray. It will be followed by a qualifying event for ...

The Dixon Advisory Classic

This year's event has attracted the strongest field yet – including no less than three Fletcher brothers. In fact, 13 of the field of 16 will be ranked among the top 100 in the world. Qualifying is on Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th, and the tournament will be played from **Friday 26th to Sunday 28th February**.



Here is another chance to see the current world champion in action, before he is put to a defence of his title at this year's WCF World Championships to be held in Florida, US, from 16th to 24th April.

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- Annual General Meeting
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- Dixon Advisory Classic

Congratulations

- NSW State Team for Eire Cup

Club Notices

- Billets
- Improvements to Club and Grounds
- A Reminder

Editorial

Oh dear. One's worst fears were realised in Spades. For your long-suffering editor (who doubts he was alone), the Christmas holiday period *did* entail a serious dearth of croquet, as foreshadowed in our last issue.

And the recent days of assault by Jupiter Pluvius have only added to the disaster, resulting in a woeful lack of practice and a decided twitch in the upper arms.

Never mind. These things will pass.

The silver lining is that it has delivered time for the production of the couple of pages you are in course of reading, which might otherwise be languishing in the 'to do' basket until next month.

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

Michael Strickland
stricko@ozemail.com.au

Congratulations ...



... are due to the three Cammeray members who have been selected in the NSW State team to contest the Eire Cup in March. **Peter and Rosie Landrebe.** and **Alan Walsh**

This year's competition will be held at Cairnlea in Victoria from Wednesday 16th to Sunday 20th

March, and involves all the six State teams (each team consisting of four men and four women) playing each other in one-day test matches of doubles, singles, reverse singles, mixed doubles, etc., over five days – a lot of croquet!



And, as mentioned above, the NSW State team will be practising at Cammeray on Friday 12th February. Come along and watch, or at least join them for drinks afterwards – compliments of their sponsors, *Lonsec Stokbroking*.

We must also mention the Australian National Titles, also at Cairnlea, from 12th to 15th March.

For details, go to <https://croquet-australia.com.au/tournaments>

Can you offer a billet?

As mentioned above, a qualifying event for the Dixon Advisory tournament will be played at Cammeray on **Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th February**, followed by the tournament itself from **Friday 26th to Sunday 28th**.

And as with past years' events, we are expecting many visitors from 'out of town', to whom we would like to be able to offer some accommodation. Rest assured that this involves little more than providing a bed and a warm welcome.

Most of the competitors are thoroughly domesticated. Some are even quite sociable. It can be a rewarding experience.

If you think you may be able to help, please contact Michael Strickland 0407 092 686 or e-mail: stricko@ozemail.com.au.

More Club Notices (or corrections)

Last month we reported on two major improvements to the club and grounds:

- The western edge of the tennis courts was reported as being 'kerbed and guttered' to minimise the run-off in heavy rain. Unfortunately, the work was not quite what we thought, and probably will not prevent much run-off, if any. Such is life. And
- The interior of our clubhouse was reported as being repainted, starting Monday 14th December. That date has now been deferred to the 'middle of January'. Please make allowances for what should be just few days' inconvenience.

And a reminder ...

If you have read this far, you will have realised that the Club's lawns will be unavailable for usual play on several days during February.

To avoid disappointment, you are encouraged to refer to the Club website: <http://www.cammeray-croquet.org.au>, particularly the daily advice of what is on, or click on 'The next 28 days at the Club'.

Fergus's brain revisited ...



"I am in the process of uploading my brain to the internet ... well, some of the content of my brain anyway."

Fergus McInnes is an interesting character, from the other side of the world, (Edinburgh, to be precise) whom we introduced to you a few months ago. We get the new year underway with another extract from his prolific writing ...

"I sometimes wonder whether, given the serious issues in the world, I am right to spend so much of my time and energy on activities like croquet. But I believe it can be justified. Croquet and other sports and hobbies bring a great deal of happiness to a large number of people; and *somebody* needs to organise them!

"Also these activities are often exothermic in human energy terms, *ie* they give out more than is put into them. I believe I have more, not less, physical energy for other things as a result of spending time hillwalking; and more, not less, mental energy as a result of the mental exercise inherent in playing and organising croquet. (Life is not a zero sum game.) What I *am* left with less of is time; but then I also seem to need less sleep when I'm happy and active than at other times, which makes up for that to some extent.

"I like to take my fun seriously, and have fun with the serious things too. (It's a happy coincidence, and an inspiration to me, that my name is an anagram of "Grim Fun Scenes".) Seriousness and playfulness need not be in conflict.

"Douglas Hofstadter, who takes a similar approach, comments on this in the introduction to *Metamagical Themas*: 'How can both Rubik's Cube and nuclear Armageddon be discussed at equal length in one book by one author? Partly the answer is that life itself is a mixture of things of many sorts. Life is not worth living if one can never afford to be delighted or have fun.' He goes on to remark on the links between small and large things due to the occurrence of similar mathematical structures in both."

Something to ponder?

And for those who have still not found their way to Fergus's website, try http://homepages.inf.ed.ac.uk/fmi/brain/Fergus's_Brain_Online.htm