



# Cammeray Croquet Club



NEWSLETTER

January 2018

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

## Happy New Year!

The clock has ticked over into 2018, and we wish you a very successful and rewarding new year. January is a relatively quiet month in the Cammeray calendar, but it is really the calm before the storm, and this year February will bring us ...

### The 2018 AC World Championships

The 2018 Association Croquet World Championships will be held at the Kelburn Croquet Club, in Wellington, New Zealand (and other venues) from **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February** to **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February**. You can follow at <https://croquetscores.com/2018/ac> or at the event website <http://www.sporty.co.nz/2018acworldchampionships>  
And good luck to **Alan Walsh**, the sole entrant from Cammeray!

### The CNSW Bronze Singles

Back home, the first event in the CNSW tournament calendar, open to those with handicaps of 14 or higher, will be held at Tempe from **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February**. **Entries close on 26<sup>th</sup> January, and Cammeray is generally well represented. Log on at: <https://www.croquet-nsw.org/events.aspx?year=2018&type=S>**

### The Cammeray Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will be held at the Clubhouse on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February** at **10.00am**. If you haven't already done so, pop it into in your diary. The Club is travelling well, but we have more plans to be implemented during the year. Come along, hear what is proposed, and have your say!

### The 2018 Dixon Advisory Classic

... this year attracting another strong field, including three Fletcher brothers, four other interstate entrants, and one overseas entrant. Qualifying is on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, and the tournament will be played **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March**.

### Can you offer a billet?

As noted above, we are expecting many visitors from 'out of town', to whom we would like to be able to offer some accommodation – usually only from Thursday to Sunday.

Rest assured that this involves little more than offering a bed for a few nights and a warm welcome. Most competitors are fairly well domesticated. Some could even be described as quite sociable.

So, if you think you may be able to help, please contact Michael Strickland 0407 092 686 or e-mail: [stricko@ozemail.com.au](mailto:stricko@ozemail.com.au).

### In this issue ...

#### Forthcoming events

- The 2018 World Championships
- CNSW Bronze Singles
- Club Annual General Meeting
- The Dixon Advisory Classic
- Billets anyone?
- The Jamberoo Open
- The Mosman Bash
- Cammeray Birthday Tournament

#### Club News

- Annual Subs, Green Fees, etc.
- A couple more reminders.

### Editorial

Once again, the Christmas holiday period meant a serious dearth of croquet for your editor, who, for much of the time, was reduced to simply pondering the game generally, and idly musing on what the new year might hold.

The answer is revealed (at least partially) in the adjoining column, which catalogues a spate of activity in the coming months, including the Club AGM next month.

You may be pleased to know that all of the existing Committee have put their hands up yet again – offering themselves for re-election. But it has to be said that the coming year will involve some serious head-hunting, as we approach a change of at least one or two office-bearers in 2019.

Brace yourself for a tap on the shoulder!

---

*As ever, comment on this issue, and/or contribution to the next, can be sent to ...*  
Michael Strickland  
[stricko@ozemail.com.au](mailto:stricko@ozemail.com.au)

## The Jamberoo Open AC Tournament

Last year's event had to be cancelled, but this popular tournament is back again in 2018, and will run from **Monday 5th to Thursday 8th March**. The Club has acquired a new mower, and the lawns looked quite beautiful when the writer dropped in the other day. If you are interested, lose no time in contacting the tournament manager, Ian Harrison: [ianharrison085@gmail.com](mailto:ianharrison085@gmail.com)

## The Mosman Open AC Tournament

Now sponsored by Mercedes-Benz North Shore as well as Bendigo Bank, this year's Mosman Bash will run from **Friday 16th to Sunday 18th March**. If you are interested, please contact Ron Humpherson: [rhumpherson@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rhumpherson@optusnet.com.au)

## The Cammeray Birthday Tournament ...

Cammeray's own annual open handicap tournament, for those with handicaps from 0 to 12, will once again be played in **May** (as it always used to be, or so one is told). This year the dates are **Thursday 10th to Saturday 12th** (and we are also told that Sunday 11th is Mothers' Day).

## More Club News

- Members are reminded that **Annual Subscriptions** fell due on **1st January**. You should have received an Invoice. If you have not, please contact the Club secretary, Warren Yates: [secretary@cammeray-croquet.org.au](mailto:secretary@cammeray-croquet.org.au)
- And you really should need little reminding that **Green Fees** increased from \$2 to \$3 per day from the beginning of the year. (See the several notices to this effect in the clubhouse.)
- Mention was made last month of a very successful 'painting bee', which saw several seats beautifully rendered green, in keeping with the clubhouse décor. If you missed out on contributing to this, you may like to know that we are hopeful of being able to finish the job in February. Watch this space!
- In reporting on the Club Xmas party and trophy presentation last month, we mentioned that the *Stephen Howes Trophy* had gone missing. You can stop looking. It has now been found in the trophy cabinet (where it certainly wasn't before) ... and is being dusted for fingerprints.
- Don't forget that **Stephen Howes** himself will be conducting a short workshop on the Rules of Golf Croquet on Sunday 4th February at 2.00pm.

## And a couple more reminders ...

If you ever find that you have quite forgotten what is happening at the Club on any particular day, do not panic! Just hop into the Club website: <http://www.cammeray-croquet.org.au>, and click on '**The next 28 days at the Club**'. Or, if you are looking for forthcoming tournaments at other clubs, click on <http://www.cammeray-croquet.org.au/General/noticeboard.php>

And on a day when the temperature has again climbed well into the thirties, we conclude by reminding you of the games available at the cooler hour of 5.00pm on Monday and Wednesday.

## Extreme Croquet ...



*... being something your editor stumbled across while scouring the ether for inspiration, and something which seemed ripe for extreme plagiarism!*

**Candice Walsh**, who can be found in St. John's, Newfoundland, describes herself as a Professional Experience Collector and full-time writer, blogger, and inventor of job titles that don't make much sense. [Hmm.]

When I think of croquet, I imagine elderly men ambling around a level green field, swinging rainbow-colored mallets, and engaging in polite conversation with competitors. Extreme croquet is like that, *but for people who take life less seriously*.

While croquet-like games are thought to have been played in France about 600 years ago, the first example of *extreme* croquet didn't appear until the 1920s. Newspaper editor and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Herbert Swope played a jazzed-up version of the game at his Long Island estate, with no boundaries and few rules.

According to the mystery writer Rex Stout, who had a ball thrown at his head during a game in 1937, croquet with Swope could get rough. "Croquet is not for sissies," Stout said.

Today, extreme croquet usually takes place in one of three environments: woodland areas, stream beds, and railroad tracks. All fields must be irregular and at least 50 yards long, though they are often much longer.

The aim seems to be to play in the silliest fashion possible, as will be evident from such local rules as:

**Hitting the Beer:** Hitting another player's drink will give you two extra turns. Hitting your own will result in "a berating from the other players for wasting precious resources – beer or brain cells".

**Dogs or Children on the Course:** Regardless of distractions or interferences, the ball must be hit from wherever it lies, even if moved from its original position. The rules note that "*the training of dogs or small children for this purpose is legal, but frowned upon.*"

**Slow Play:** Anyone moving about the course with exaggerated slowness "will be tackled on the spot and beaten with mallets."

In summary, it doesn't really matter if you can bench press 200 pounds, or run a five-minute mile. *If you have a sense of humour and a case of beer, extreme croquet could be for you!*