



CNSW Men's Open Singles

This year's NSW Open attracted a very strong field of 20, which included Cammeray players **Peter Landrebe**, **Alan Walsh**, **Mike Hughes**, **Chris Lavina**, and **Steve Miles**. Peter finished in a very worthy third place (earning a picture on the left) and Mike was tenth.



The final between Simon Hockey of SA and Trevor Bassett of NSW was a cliff-hanger. As reported to your scribe, Simon peeled Trevor's four-back ball to the peg, and pegged both it and his own ball off, leaving a game of 'one-ball', with himself in a substantial lead. But Trevor clawed back the

lead, and could well have won if he hadn't stuck in Penult. But apparently he did, and Simon triumphed 26TPO - 24

CNSW Gold Doubles

With confidence no doubt resurgent, after his win in the Gold Singles, the seemingly unstoppable **Steve Miles** teamed up with fellow Cammeray member, **Sue Nichols**, to add the NSW Gold Doubles title to his collection. Well done both!

Happily, as we reported last month, Steve has now graduated to Platinum, so the Gold Division bids him a fond farewell (and doubtless heaves a collective sigh of relief!).

CNSW Golf Croquet Pennants

Cammeray also had a team playing in Division 2 of the Golf Croquet Pennant Competition. Captain, **Steve Miles**, led a team which included **Sue Eldridge-Smith**, **Marg O'Brien**, **David Stanton**, and **Sue Nichols**. They managed a win at home against Mosman 'White', and a win away at Coogee, which were sadly outnumbered by losses away to Mosman 'Blue', and at Killara, and a loss at home to RSGC. So no Pennant for Cammeray.

Sydney Premier League

This is the third year that Cammeray has hosted this event, which brings together some of the top players in the Sydney region. Cammeray's **Alan Walsh**, **Mike Hughes**, and **Rosie** and **Peter Landrebe** are this year joined by Rob Elliot from Coogee, John Bartrop (Killara) Bob Green (Epping) and Ted Salter (Hunters Hill).

Play started on Tuesday 24th May, with both Mr and Mrs Landrebe enjoying first-round wins. Sadly, the second round, coincided with some unwelcome precipitation, and has been postponed to 4.30pm on 7th June, to be followed on the same evening by the third round.

Matches normally start at 6.00pm on Tuesday evenings, and afford a great opportunity to see how the game *can* be played.

In this issue ...

Results

- CNSW Men's Open Singles
- CNSW Gold Doubles
- CNSW GC Pennants
- Sydney Premier League
- Cammeray Bronze Division Championship
- Cancer Council Morning Tea
- 'Young Guns' GC Competition

Coming events

- AC Pennant Competitions
- Cammeray Competitions
- Coaching

Special Report

- From the World Championship Tournament Referee

Editorial

Plenty to write up again this month. In fact we seem to have needed almost three pages to accommodate it all.

Not only are there several interesting results to report, but we have also been given plenty of advice of forthcoming events (although there will doubtless be something we should have included but haven't!).

And you will no doubt recall that one of the best-performed Cammeray members at the recent World AC Championship in Florida was none other than the Tournament Referee, **Stephen Howes**. Ever mindful of his obligations to the Newsletter, Stephen dutifully spent the flight home compiling the report which takes over this column on the next page ...

Comment or contributions can be sent to Michael Strickland
stricko@ozemail.com.au

Premier League (cont.)

And as if that were not enough, our unstoppable Social Events manager **Sue Eldridge-Smith** has gone to great lengths to ensure that (for a very modest consideration) you can also enjoy a bowl of hot soup and/or a glass of wine (including some of the BackVintage offering). Come along!

Cammeray Bronze Division Championship

The Club Bronze Division Championship has been played over the past few weeks, and a close call it has been. All six entrants won at least one game, and all six also lost at least one game.

The final, featuring **Ian Lucas** and **Peter Colqhoun**, was to have been played on Saturday 4th June ... when the rains came ...



Cammeray – après le déluge.

And again we ask you to check **both** entrance gates when leaving.

The annual 'Morning Tea'

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of **Sue Eldridge-Smith, Marg O'Brien, Jan Thomas, Kerry Phillips** and the thirty or so souls who turned out to support the event, this year's Morning Tea raised more than \$1500 for the Cancer Council. Well done!



The 'Young Guns' GC competition

Mention was made last month of the coaching being given to several young players in Golf Croquet, as preparation for the World u21 GC Championships in Melbourne next February, and of a planned competition for them to be held at Cammeray on Sunday, 5th June. Unfortunately, Hughie thought otherwise, and the event was postponed. But it is hoped to be able to re-arrange another event at Cammeray on a Sunday later in the year.

CNSW AC Pennants – June & July

And we have also noted before that Cammeray will once again be entering two teams in the Bronze Pennant competition, one in Silver, one in Gold, and one in the Premier Division.

Play starts this week – Silver on Tuesday, 7th June, Gold on Wednesday 8th, and Bronze on Thursday 9th.

Please watch the daily information on the Club website to see when home games are being played. These will normally be on Tuesday mornings, Wednesday afternoons, or Thursday mornings – which should minimise disruption to our regular Club program.



Special Report

A Tournament Referee's memories of the recent World Championships in Florida.

by Stephen Howes

Do it again? Well...

In April, the World AC Championships were held at the National Croquet Center, West Palm Beach, Florida, and I had been appointed Tournament Referee – something I regarded as an honour and a privilege. What I didn't realise was how hard I would have to work.

The work started several months before the Tournament, seeking referees from around the world. I eventually had two Americans, a Kiwi, a Pom, and Tony Hall, all of whom were great people to work with.

I ref'd the Qualifying Tournament in the week before the main event, which was the fun part of the fortnight's endeavours as quite a few Americans took part. They play several mallet games – American Rules, GC, and occasionally AC – so they tend to get the rules mixed up. I was asked to watch for a potential double-tap in a close roquet. I asked if the target ball was dead. 'No' was the reply. But a double-tap is not a fault in open play (as it is in GC), so the players had got a bit confused.

Three balls on the boundary line from the corner spot, B, K and Y. 'Ref, what fault could I make?' I was asked. 'How long have you got?' I answered. It took some time to get the player to ask the question in a way that a ref is allowed to answer, but eventually he asked if he could take croquet from Y with B. That question I could answer. If only he had asked if this were a group of balls from which to form a cannon. Then he would have made a successful next stroke.

Then there was the player who, at turn 4, found an opponent ball on the corner spot of B baulk. 'What can I do here, Ref?' to which the only answer a ref can give is 'You may play your ball from anywhere on A baulk or B baulk'. He eventually worked out that a cut roquet would suit his purpose.

Ever seen someone take an entitled lift from 'C baulk'? Neither had I until Florida. He just thought that playing from a baulk line

Cammeray Competitions coming up ...

Your Games Captain has been as busy as ever, and wishes us to report that

- The **AC Club Championship** will be played over the fortnight from 15th to 29th June, with the Final on 1st July.
- The **GC Club Championship** will be played on Sunday 21st August.
- The **Silver Division Championship**, from 14th to 31st August, with the Final on 2nd September.
- The **Gold Division Championship**, from 12th to 26th September, with the Final on 30th September.
- The **AC Handicap Competition**, from 10th to 31st October, with the Final on 5th November, and
- An **AC Hi-Lo Doubles Competition** will be held in November.

Watch this space!

More coaching sessions!

Last year, we arranged some informal coaching by senior players who stayed on after their regular Wednesday morning game and offered advice to anyone who cared to come along.

This proved highly popular, and your Games Captain (and others!) are keen to repeat the exercise. So if you think you still have some room for improvement, we have a couple of possibilities for you.

Some reasonably basic sessions at **12.30pm on Mondays starting on Monday 6th June**, will cover 'take-offs', stop shots, hoop approaches, rolls, short roquets, rushes, setting-up a break, continuing a break, and pegging out.

Then, later in the month, at **12.30pm on Wednesdays, starting at on Wednesday 29th June**, some slightly more advanced sessions, but also open to all whose thirst for understanding the game is still not satisfied. The plan is to cover such items as opening strategies, 'digging out corner balls', cannons, peels, and 'setting a leave'.

These sessions are expected to run for several weeks, but you need not worry about missing anything. Individual help can be made available to those who ask! This is one of the great strengths of the club. Take advantage of it!

And another plug for ...

BACKVINTAGE

Hand Selected Regional Wines Delivered Direct

Julian Todd, who founded BackVintage Wines in 2003, is a keen supporter and has been wonderfully generous to the Club.

His company specialises in sourcing premium wines from around Australia, and selling them direct to the consumer at wholesale prices via the internet.

Julian can be found at the BV premises:
177 Sailors Bay Road Northbridge,
or visit their website:

<https://www.backvintage.com.au>

As mentioned earlier in this Issue, you can sample some of the product on Tuesday evenings at the Club!

from corner 2 would be closer to the target than from B baulk, so he did! Luckily, his opponent thought something amiss, and called the ref.

I think they all learned something. I learned that even some aspiring World Championship players don't know the Laws.

From a straight Law-interpretation viewpoint the Championship itself was easier, but there were other difficulties.

USCA had not provided trained, competent hoop-setting teams, so that required the referees to turn up soon after 7 o'clock each morning to set the hoops, otherwise play wouldn't have been able to start until well into the day. The soil at the NCC is very fine sand, and has little holding power, so *Superhoops* were used. These have 12" carrots with four 10" flanges on each leg. They have to be hammered in with a 5 kilo sledgehammer. The hoops were set at "the largest axis of the largest ball on the lawn plus 1/64 of an inch" (or 0.4 mm). As Dawson balls may not be all perfectly spherical, we had to find the largest ball, spin it to find the largest axis, and set a clamp at that width plus 0.4 mm. This meant a slight stretch to the hoop width, and led to some of them springing back to their natural width (i.e. too tight) during the day's play, and jamming a ball. Who had to get them out, reset them, and use the sledgehammer? The referees. Not what we thought we would have to do when we had all volunteered our time (and airfares).

The days started early, and often ran until 8.30 at night, so sleep and eat was about all there was time for. Is there a beach at Palm Beach, Florida? Yes, but I only saw it flying in and flying out.

Would I do it again? Well, yes, to see some really good croquet, particularly Stephen Mulliner coming back from two games down to win the World Championship with a triple peel in Game 5; or to watch Reg Bamford completing a sextuple peel. It was a great and educational fortnight.

SH



The National Croquet Center, West Palm Beach