



Cammeray Croquet Club



NEWSLETTER

June 2017

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

CNSW Men's Singles 2017

Competition for the State mens' open singles title was held at Tempe over the weekend of 19th to 21st May, and Cammeray members **Alan Walsh** and **Peter Landrebe** gave a pretty good account of themselves.

Alan won all three of his block matches, but ran up against Peter in the first of his knock-out matches, and went down 2-1. Peter then went on to beat Trevor Basset in the final, to take the title. Well done Peter!



Cammeray Birthday Tournament



Earlier in the month, and closer to home, the re-run of the previously aborted *Birthday Tournament* was a great success. The sun shone (for the most part) and a very enjoyable three days' play it was.

This is a handicap competition, limited to sixteen entrants, and played initially in four blocks, seeded to give a range of handicaps in each. After three block games, play proceeds on a knock-out basis, but offers a delightfully generous 'double elimination' or *repêchage* system, by which even those who finished last in their block can still come through and win the trophy. And of course everyone gets plenty of play,

Thus **Georgie Ofner**, who came second in her block, and was then beaten in the first of the knock-out rounds, needed just a couple more good wins to take the Plate Competition. Well done, Georgie!

But it was Robert Elliott of Chatswood who breezed through to the main final with five wins out of five, to find himself up against last year's winner, Bob Green of Epping. The pair of them then put on a fascinating display for the benefit of the small crowd who had gathered, in a match that swung this way and that, before Robert ran out winner, 26-21.



Apart from the trophy, Robert also picked up the lion's share of the prize-money very kindly donated by Cammeray member **Maureen Cope**.

And the barbecue supper in the clubhouse on Saturday was a truly memorable affair, a *grande finale* from the magnificent team of ladies who had kept us fed and watered throughout the event.

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Editorial

Astute readers who set their clocks by the regularity of this publication may have wondered just what happened to the June issue.

Rain is generally your editor's friend. Much easier to write when not out on the lawn. But it was several days into this month before the weather made writing preferable to playing.

And then the heavens opened in a big way, not only making time away from the game permissible, but also providing the first real test of all the recent drainage work.

The results are promising, but will not be conclusive until the turf surrounds have settled, and no longer form a barrier to the run-off of surface water.

And further interesting developments are noted on the next page. Patience is slowly being rewarded!

In the meantime, we can give you notice of our next 'social event' which will include our first 'Ricochet Day' on **Sunday 30th July**. Pop it in your diary, and keep an eye on the website for details.

Comment on this issue, or contributions for future issues, can be sent to the editor:
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Drainage work



Lake Cammeray ... a thing of the past?

The past month has also seen major work carried out around our lawns by contractors to North Sydney Council. That work has now been completed with the laying of turf on the surrounds, where the trenches for the drains were cut. But with the lack of growth to be expected over the winter months, it will be some time before everything is really back to the way we want it.

And of course, even with the latest rain, we cannot be sure how effective the work may have been in solving our drainage problems. But we are optimistic!

Shelter sheds

Mention was made in the last Newsletter that we were also making progress in getting new shade shelters on the tennis court end of the lawns. We can now report now that the Council have not only approved the sort of shelters we wanted, but after helping us source them at a reasonable price, they have decided that we should have *four* matching new shelters!! The Club has paid for two, but the Council will pay the rest, and attend to the installation. Thank you, North Sydney Council!

The work should be carried out in the next few weeks, and may involve some minor disruption to play, so please watch the website.

Parking

The cycleway seems to have been completed, and parking along both Ernest Street and Park Avenue has been restored.

Club Clothing

Club clothing has been taken over by **Ralda Kirton**, who advises that the next order will be sent to the suppliers on 30th June. An order form can be found on the website or at the clubhouse. And you may like to have a look at some of the older (but unused!) items which have been put on sale in the clubhouse.

Pennants

Matches start this month, and will of course be reported on next month, but it is disappointing to note that although Cammeray can field teams in all divisions, there is a declining number of other clubs who can provide the necessary opposition. *O tempora; O mores.*

More on the Laws

Following is a less than serious piece on the game we love, penned a couple of years ago by a cynical and anonymous writer for the celebrated UK publication

The Telegraph

Croquet Rules?

Croquet has rules? I have played it (or so I thought) once or twice, when staying with lawn-rich friends. But I had no idea there were rules, other than the vague goal of knocking a ball through a series of hoops. Mostly, it seemed to be an excuse to keep drinking after lunch, with everyone lurching about on the grass pretending to be engaged in fierce competition while in fact scoping out shady spots for an afternoon nap.

But it turns out that croquet is a serious and complex game, not at all compatible with 'oh-go-on-then-just-a-splash-more-rosé'.

Back in the 19th century, croquet became the most popular amateur sport on both sides of the Atlantic. It escaped from the gardens of the aristocracy and was played by all classes, everywhere from town squares to beaches. *Why? Because it was fun.*

Croquet was the first outdoor game that could be played by men and women together, giving the young a rare opportunity to meet and flirt. It was ... the Victorian equivalent of Tinder. [*Being what exactly? Ed.*]

But now that we only need to 'swipe right' to find a sexual partner, we have different requirements of our leisure activities. Time is short; free time shorter still. So we tend either to squander it on pure relaxation (TV) or spend it efficiently on self-improvement. For my generation, "sport" only counts if it gives you arms like Madonna. [*Eh?*] So marathons, aquathons, and triathlons are 'in'; Having a chat while ambling around a grassy enclosure is 'out'.

The complicated rules of croquet are the last straw. If a sport isn't going to make you thin, it should at least be fun. Forget the 'duffer's tice'. Just pour another glass of rosé.