



Cammeray Croquet Club



NEWSLETTER

March 2017

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

Last month's Club AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting was, happily, brief and to the point. The Minutes are already available on the Club website, at:

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

but we can simplify things for you by reporting that the Committee elected for 2017 consists of **Michael Strickland** (President); **Beverley Westwood** (Vice-President); **Warren Yates** (Secretary); **Mike Hughes** (Treasurer); **Steve Miles**; **Alan Walsh**; **Marg O'Brien**; **Sue Eldridge-Smith**; **Ralda Kirton**; and **Ian Lucas**.

The Treasurer reported a surplus of \$5,785, somewhat down on last year's result, but nonetheless boosting our retained earnings to more than \$41,000. Income was slightly up on last year, but expenditure was up even more – spread across a number of items.

Members were also told of:

- a proposal to purchase our own Defibrillator, which is now being actively pursued by the Committee;
- some progress at last being made on the proposed new shelter sheds at the tennis court end of the lawns; and
- the Committee looking further into possible changes to the Club constitution, perhaps to place a limit on the length of time which any committee member might serve.

Invitation Days

We can also report that our Games Captain, Steve Miles, has been busy, planning regular AC 'invitation days' with other clubs, and it looks as though the invitation days to be held at Cammeray will be:

- First Friday of the month – Silver Division
- Second Friday of the month – Platinum Division
- Third Friday of the month – Gold Division
- Fourth Friday of the month – Bronze Division

And **the "All Grades" playing session which used to be on a Friday morning has been moved to Tuesday**. Keep an eye on the website.

Ricochet on Sundays

Steve also tells us that he is planning to offer games of 'Ricochet' on the fifth Sunday of the month (when that occurs!). Look it up!

And that Working Bee on Sunday 19th ...

... was very successful, with the results apparent to all but the most wilfully blind. A big 'thank you' to those who gave up a day of rest to take on a day's labour.

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Editorial

This is a hastily compiled, but fact-filled issue, designed to bring you up-to-date on some of what happened in February, before alerting you [*here he goes again!*] to the annual 'festival of croquet' – now upon us!

You do not have to be a 'croquet tragic' to enjoy the occasion – although it may help. There is a delightful social side to it – with visitors from other clubs and elsewhere dropping in, and several evenings during which food and drink may be consumed in good company. And our sponsors have been very generous in this connection!

On the croquet front, Steve Miles has been beset with late changes to the entries for the *Birthday Tournament*, but has again come up with the goods. And David Stanton has once more managed to attract a very strong field for the *Dixon Advisory Classic*.

Sue Eldridge-Smith and her team have your gastronomic needs well in hand ... so the stage is set.

I hope we may see you there.

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

Michael Strickland

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CNSW Bronze Championship

This event was once again hosted by the Strathfield Club, and congratulations go to their President Ann Shaddick for a fine win! Cammeray member **Ralda Kirton** played out of her skin to record the same number of wins, but had to be content with second place, determined by net hoops scored. **Lucy Rees**, and **Sue Eldridge-Smith** also upheld the honour of the Club. Well done, team!

CNSW 3-and-under Championship

Last weekend saw the '3-and Under' competition played at Tempe in far from ideal conditions, which may go some way to explaining why, despite the class of the field, not a single triple-peel was completed in twenty-eight matches. Hearty congratulations to **Mike Hughes**, who came third, and **Alan Walsh**, fourth.

The Annual 'Festival of Croquet' ...



... is upon us at last, with the thirteenth *Birthday Tournament* this weekend, Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th.

And then the fourth *Dixon Advisory Croquet Classic*, with 'qualifying' next week, and play over the weekend, Friday 10th to Sunday 12th March.

So the lawns will be closed for regular play from the morning of Friday 3rd March until the evening of Sunday 5th. They will be available on Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th, but then unavailable again until Monday 13th.

Come along and see how the game can be played! There is much to be learned by judicious study of how the top players go about the task. (And you may also be able to find yourself some refreshment.)

Speaking of which, sponsors *Dixon Advisory* will be hosting a barbecue on Thursday evening, to open proceedings, as it were, and another to close the show on Sunday evening. And sponsors *BackVintage* wines will once again be much in evidence.

Details of these events can be accessed on the very front page of the Club website, under **News**, and there are notices at the Club.

Billets

You can relax! It is our pleasure to report that everyone has been accommodated. The willingness of members to open their homes to the 'waifs and strays' of the croquet community was positively heartwarming. Another attribute the Club can be justly proud of.

Forthcoming Competitions

After we listed a few 'outside' competitions in last month's Newsletter, it was explained to your editor that CNSW regularly sends us flyers for other clubs' events, which all go up on the website, where you can find them in the **Members Area**, under

Check our on-line noticeboard for events at other clubs

We are also told that such notices are automatically whisked away once the closing date for entry has passed. Isn't that clever!

Golf Croquet News

Cammeray did not have a representative at the GC u 21 World Championships, but the Club did play a part as explained below.

*And **Peter Landrebe** is currently playing in the open World Championships, at which **Stephen Howes** is refereeing.*

GC u 21 & World Champs

Lisa Kelshaw and Alison Sharpe* have asked us to record a big 'thank you' to Cammeray Croquet Club, and to say ...

Last year on Tuesday evenings, members may have noticed some private Golf Croquet coaching going on. Club members Rosie and Peter Landrebe were kind enough to mentor and coach two of NSW's up-and-coming young players – Charlie Sharpe (Killara) and Lana Sexton (Manly).

In late December, Lana and Charlie travelled to Palmerston North, in New Zealand, to participate in the NZ Under 21 National Championships. Jamie Gumbrell (Canberra) entered as well. Jamie is coached by another top Australian player, Peter Freer from Canberra.

The NZ Under 21s are very strong, and coached in class-room settings. On a training day prior to the event, we saw about 40 young people between 14 and 20 doing drills and studying tactics. They had six courts to play on at Rose Gardens CC.

There were 26 competitors all up. Charlie Sharpe came 5th, Jamie Gumbrell 8th, and Lana Sexton 11th.

This was a fantastic effort, and great preparation for the World Titles at Cairnlea, Victoria, in February, where Lana and Charlie, along with four others, represented Australia. [*Unfortunately, NZ dominated, with six players in the last eight! Ed Wilson from SA was the best-performed Australian, as a beaten semi-finalist.* Ed.]

The training on Cammeray's fast lawns and tight hoops was an amazing opportunity for Lana and Charlie to hone their skills.

A huge 'thank you' to Cammeray Croquet Club for the use of their facilities. And gratitude and appreciation to Pete Landrebe for his time and expertise.

**Lisa is mother of Lana; Alison, of Charlie.*