



Cammeray Croquet Club



Newsletter

March 2019

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

The Dixon Advisory Tournament

This year's tournament was another great success – helped by along by some delightful weather, mocking the gloomy prognostications of the news media, and scorning the ominous sky in this picture!



The qualifying competition saw the second and third ranked entrants proceed to the main event – **Gareth Denyer** from Marrickville and **Kevin Maloney** from Bright in Victoria. But that was only after a 'play-off', in which Gareth managed to defeat the top-ranked entrant, **Lindsay David** from Graceville, Queensland, in a fascinating game decided by a 'golden point'.

The Thursday afternoon between the qualifying matches and the start of the tournament proper has recently been a chance to entertain our friends from *Dixon Advisory*, and even to give them a taste of the game in the form of a 'pro-am' event – pairing them up with players in the tournament. Sadly, the demands of work took precedence this year, although one or two did join us later for the wine-tasting put on by our old friend **Julian Todd** of *Backvintage*.



Simon Hockey receives a cheque for \$3,000 from Daryl Dixon.

The main event as usual provided some classic croquet. Possibly not quite so many Triple Peels recorded as in the past, but **Simon Hockey** from Jamestown, South Australia, managed four in his six games on the way to the final, where he met Cammeray's own **Peter Landrebe**.

There is an excellent commentary on the final on *CroquetScores*. Suffice to say here that Peter was never quite able to capitalise on the few chances he had, and Simon played magnificently, despite a little hiccup on the Rover peel! But he was able to retrieve the situation, and win 26-3.

The annual National Titles

Played this year in Perth, in the week leading up to the 'Eire Cup' teams competition, the Women's Singles saw **Barbara McDonald** and **Sue Eldridge-Smith** competing, but neither could progress past the second round, and it was left to **Alison Sharpe**, who won the Title, and **Alix Verge** who won the Plate competition, to uphold the honour of NSW.

In the Men's Singles, Cammeray's **Alan Walsh**, made it to the quarter-finals, and **Mike Hughes** won through to the final of the Plate, which he lost by two games to one. Well done, chaps!

In this issue ...

- Dixon Advisory Tournament
- ACA National Titles
- Eire Cup
- Jamberoo
- Coming CNSW Competitions
- Cammeray Events

Editorial

The adjoining column, as ever, reports on recent and forthcoming activities, including the very successful Dixon tournament.

But we do have to add that **Callum Hyland** (he of the colourful clothing) was moved to write in his commentary on the final, courtesy of *CroquetScores* ...

“... the weather is delightful (probably 28 degrees, fine, sunny, slight breeze), and the crowd seem very content. They are made up of about a dozen of the players from the main event (main draw of 16), a couple of the qualifiers who didn't make it through, a couple of spouses, half a dozen of Cammeray's extremely hard-working and generous helpers, another dozen or so club members, some staff from Dixon Advisory (the wonderful sponsors), and Julian the wine-man, with a table full of delightful looking drinks. All up, about 40 people here. Very nice.”



Part of the gallery for the final.

Mention has to be made that **Julian Todd** very kindly hosted not just one, but two tasting sessions at the Club during the Dixon tournament. You can return his support by checking the range of premium wines at ...

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

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The Eire Cup

The NSW team, with four Cammeray members – team manager **Alan Walsh**, and players **Rob Elliott**, **Barbara McDonald**, and **Sue Eldridge-Smith** – won five out of their six ‘test matches’ against the other States, to finish second behind Victoria (up from third last year).



Interestingly, the final table shows NSW won 64 games to 36 lost, compared with the Victorians 60 to 40, and scored 1,760 hoops to 1,327 as against the Vics’ 1,662 to 1,403. And the crucial test against Victoria was lost by just a single game!!

The Jamberoo Open



Other Cammeray Members travelled less far from home, and joined a smaller than usual field for the annual Jamberoo competition. We have to congratulate **Werner Kos**, who won his Block, with five wins out of five, and lowered his handicap to 14 in the process. And **Peter Colquhoun** took third place.

This is a very well run and enjoyable event, in a marvellous setting, which your editor has missed over the past couple of years, but we notice several new names among this year’s entrants, and it is to be hoped that we can give things a boost next year.

CNSW Events

This is a chance to remind you of a number of CNSW competitions in the coming months:

- **Platinum** Singles (h’cap 1-4.5) on Sat 27th and Sun 28th April;
- **Gold** Singles and Doubles (h’cap 5-8), and the **Bronze** Singles (14-20), all in the week of Monday 29th April to Friday 2nd May;
- **Silver** Singles and Doubles (h’cap 9-12) from 7th to 10th May

Please refer to the CNSW website for more details.

Then we have the **Beryl Chambers NSW Handicap** Competition, with the Northern Sydney region qualifying rounds being played at Cammeray from Wednesday 15th to Friday 17th May.

Cammeray Events

It seems that the annual Club Handicap Competition is also upon us. This is of course open to all members - with any differences in playing ability being sorted out by the handicap system.

At the time of writing, there are several entrants with handicaps in the teens, and one with a handicap of 4.5. Fun and games predicted. The entry form is on the desk in the clubhouse.



And this is an opportunity to note that **Sandra Colquhoun** has taken on the role of Games Captain from Steve Miles following the latter’s election as President. And at the same time, **Ian Lucas** has assumed responsibility for Beginners and Bronze members. Well done, and thank you both!



More History ...



... from crinoline to championship, via clerics and medics: jottings from the very early days.

Your editor has been delving further into the early history of our game, and feels bound to share some of what he has unearthed.

It seems that croquet in the 1850s and 60s was sometimes tagged ‘crinoline croquet’ – a mildly disparaging reference to the mode of dress popular among the ladies who played. Subsequently, we find a clerical streak among the game’s aficionados, such that when things started to be taken more seriously, the game is referred to as ‘croquet without curates’.

Two people who ‘took it more seriously’ were Walter Whitmore and Henry Jones. The former organised the first ‘open’ tournament in 1867 (which he won). The latter is described as having abandoned a career as a surgeon to take up the position of ‘croquet correspondent’ for *The Field*, if you please. (But there was more to him.)

In 1868 the *All England Croquet Club* was formed, at the urgings of another medic, Dr Richard Prior, who had also given up practice and found croquet. Alongside him was a JH Walsh, who himself had relinquished a career as an eye surgeon.

But already in 1869, there was a split, with a break-away group adopting the title *National Croquet Club*, and that lasted until 1872. The level of antipathy between the two groups, and antagonism between the various individuals, makes our current political shenanigans seem quite tame!

Personalities, some large egos, some splendid eccentricities, and money, all clearly played a part. But having also read about the schism which occurred here in NSW in the 1950s, one falls to wondering if there is something about the game, or the people who play it!

Or is croquet simply a microcosm of life in general?

Comment on this issue (and/or possible contributions to future issues) can be sent to the editor, Michael Strickland:

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