



Cammeray Croquet Club



NEWSLETTER

May 2015

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

Results

Mosman 'Bendigo Bank Bash' March 2015

Mosman's annual AC tournament is now a fixture in the calendar, at the end of March, and once again offered several Cammeray players an opportunity to 'strut their stuff'.



Sadly, **Stephen Howes** (and the writer more so) floundered rather than strutted in their block. But floundered with flair, of course.

Fortunately, the irrepressible **Annette du Preez** made up for things by topping her block, with 4 good wins out of 5, and 3 peg-outs. **Sue Nichols** and **Barbara McDonald** were left trailing in her wake.

Steve Miles was runner-up in his block, with **David Surridge** third.

And **Sue Eldridge-Smith** and **Graham Maynard** also did the Club proud, the former coming third in her block.

Jamberoo Tournament April 2015

This very popular tournament was held a month later this year – to accommodate everything else that was happening in March. It was odd to see them playing football rather than cricket on the adjoining oval. But the weather was only slightly cooler. And when it stopped raining, it was bliss.

Cammeray had five members entered (I hope I have not forgotten anyone!) – **Steve Miles**, **Annette du Preez**, **Sue Eldridge-Smith**, **Margaret O'Brien**, and yours truly.

The last-mentioned was runner-up in his block (on a countback, would you believe!) But Steve Miles (pictured) was again the best performer, winning 6 games out of 6 (pegging-out five times) to top his block. And Annette made it a Cammeray one/two, as runner-up in the same block. Well done, Steve and Annette!



This really is one of the most delightful settings for croquet, with three lawns, a modern clubhouse and amenities, ample parking, the sound of cattle lowing in the paddock next door, and a pub just across the road offering special accommodation rates to players.

STOP PRESS!!

Our President has just run into a bit of form, and won the NSW Gold Division Championship. Well done **David Stanton!**

In this issue ...

Results

- Mosman Tournament
- Jamberoo Tournament
- Sydney Premier League

Forthcoming Events

- Pennant Competitions
- Club Championships
- Morning Tea!

Editorial

You can thank the famous 'east coast low' and the foul weather it has been dumping on us for the prompt production of this Newsletter. (Every cloud ... and all that.)

But while there may have been somewhat less croquet played than usual, the club has not been totally abandoned, with Neil Hardie conducting an (indoor!) refereeing workshop, and the usual committee meeting proceeding regardless. So we have a bit to write about.

It has been suggested that club newsletters such as this can be a rich primary resource for anyone attempting to write a club history. It would be an optimistic soul who sought material in these pages, but one does nevertheless try to provide a version of events which may be of interest to posterity.

With that in mind, this edition follows the established pattern: a few results, a few events to give notice of, some jottings about club activities generally, and something pertaining to the game itself.

But if you care to set the record straight, or provide *your* version of events ...

... comment on this issue, and/or contribution to the next, can be sent to ...
Michael Strickland

stricko@ozemail.com.au

The Sydney Premier League

After the success of last year's inaugural competition, the Premier League will again be run at Cammeray on Tuesday nights from mid-April to mid-June.

It features eight of the top Sydney-based players and this year includes six Cammeray players. Games generally start at 6.00pm.



The Premier League Trophy – not for the faint-hearted!

If you enjoy a glass of wine, (or even if your tastes don't run to such things) come along, watch from the warmth of the clubhouse, and marvel at the steady stream of banter on how the game should be played.

This year's entrants are: **Peter Landrebe**, **Rosie Landrebe**, Alison Sharpe from Killara, **Alan Walsh**, Ted Salter from Hunters Hill, **Mike Hughes**, **Chris Lavina**, and **Stephen Howes**.

Results will be reported here from time to time, or if your curiosity is overwhelming, you can always find what you are after on www.croquetscores.com but note that the event is (quite correctly) listed by its *starting date* of 14th April. (The final is on 16th June.)

Forthcoming Events

Pennant Competitions – June & July

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 in June – Silver on Tuesdays, starting on 9th June, Gold on Wednesdays, and Bronze on Thursdays. The finals are played at Tempe in the last week of July.

Last year we had considerable success. We shall keep you posted.

Club Championships

The Open Club Championship is under way, **and entries are now open for the Bronze championship** to be held in May and June. Speak to our Games Captain, Steve Miles, on 0449 737 530, or e-mail: stevemiles@hotmail.com.au or put your name down on the form at the club. Beginners' competition, Silver, and Gold will follow.

More News

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea ...

Sunday 31 May, from 10.30am, brought to you by Jan Thomas and her team.

No need to book!
No need to pay in advance!
Just come along when you can, with a friend or family member, and enjoy a bit of fun, a bit of croquet, a lot of morning tea, and make a donation to an organisation dedicated to supporting people living with cancer as well as cancer research.

And a parting thought – the product of too much time spent indoors in recent weeks ...

A day without croquet *probably* wouldn't kill you ...
but why take the chance!



Help with your game

*Shamelessly adapted from an article by top NZ Coach and Player **Jenny Clarke**. The original can be found in the ACA Magazine, Summer 2015.*

Five things to think about ...

Jenny makes the point that we all experience a 'bad patch' from time to time (and claims she has as often as anyone!). So she has come up with five questions to ask yourself, when you find your hitting is letting you down.

Nothing earth-shattering; in fact, it's back to basics. But remarkably helpful. Any one (or more!) of these questions could point to the problem you may need to solve:

1. Did you select a precise 'aiming point'?
2. Did you 'stalk the ball' properly?
3. Did you see your mallet hit the ball?
4. Did you keep your body still throughout?
5. Did you 'follow through' in the direction of your target?

One of the first things you can do is to select the exact spot where you want your shot to land. Jenny likes to pick a blade of grass or a spot *just behind* the target ball, or the hoop. And do this from about four yards back from your ball, gripping the mallet with your hands where they will stay right through the stroke.

Then 'stalk' the ball. Walk up to it along the line through your ball to the target, focusing on your aiming point, and with your hands already in the grip for your swing. This brings you square to the ball you are hitting, with a picture of the target in your mind's eye, and you can put your head down and concentrate on the stroke.

Trite it may be, but it makes more difference than anything else if you can then watch the face of your mallet actually make contact with the ball. It also sounds pretty easy, but we are all very eager to see the result of our efforts, and we give in to the temptation to look too soon.

Keeping your body still as you swing through the shot also makes a huge difference. All that need move is your arms, *pivoting at the shoulders*. Apart from anything else, this helps you to keep your eye on the ball.

And what more can be said about following through? Except that it is commonly the first thing to go as soon as you get tired. But the combination of a 'still body' and a smooth, deliberate 'follow-through' ... go to it!