



WCF World Championships, April 2016

It was not a happy time for the Australian contingent in Florida last month, starting with the late withdrawal of the reigning World Champion and World No1, Robert Fletcher from Victoria. And then neither of our two Cammeray players, **Alan Walsh** and **Peter Landrebe**, managed to reach the knock-out stage of the main event. Peter did go on to the semi-final of the Plate competition, but the best-performed Australians were Greg Fletcher and Stephen Forster who both progressed through to the round of 16.



A new world champion

Thank heavens there was an Englishman on hand to ensure that the world was not completely tilted off its axis. Stephen Mulliner took up tournament croquet as a Cambridge undergraduate in 1976. He was losing finalist in 1997 and 2008, so persistence has been rewarded. Among his many other achievements, it seems he can claim to be the only player to have won both the Singles and Doubles Open Championships of Australia in the same year (2009).

And it was a great tournament, we hear, for Cammeray's **Stephen Howes**, who officiated with distinction as Tournament Referee.

CNSW Winifred ('Win') Dickinson Trophy

For women with handicaps from 3 to 8, this year's event was held at Chatswood on 7th and 8th April, and was won by Cammeray's **Barbara McDonald**, with **Annette du Preez** in second place. Well done both!

CNSW Gold and Silver Singles

The glorious extended summer must have appealed to Cammeray players **Steve Miles** (pictured) who won the NSW Gold Division Championship, and **David Surridge**, the Silver, in the first week of May.

In fact Steve won all six of his games, and has moved up from Gold to Platinum, and David has progressed from Silver to Gold (again!). Great stuff!



CNSW Golf Croquet Pennants

Readers may be as surprised as your editor to learn that Cammeray also has a team playing in Division 2 of the Golf Croquet Pennant Competition. For this we have to thank our tireless Games Captain, **Steve Miles**, who has taken on captaincy of the team as well.

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Editorial

This month's missive reverts to the more usual blend of news, in the column to the left, being largely results – which come from around the world, the State, and very much closer to home – followed by some advice of forthcoming events.

But things would be pretty dry if we didn't at least attempt to leaven this with a melange of comment in the further reaches of this column. So follow your nose down for more potted history and a little item on refereeing.

And before we even get to that, it is only apt to mention that **Marg O'Brien** and **Sue Eldridge-Smith** are both deserving of an award for service way above and beyond the call of duty. True it is that they carefully chose a morning when there would be plenty of players to witness their efforts(!), but there can be no gainsaying the hours they spent sorting through and culling many years' worth of accumulated paper and other detritus in the clubhouse cupboard, including much that once belonged to the local rodent population. Thank you, Marg and Sue!

Comment or contributions can be sent to Michael Strickland
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Golf Croquet Pennants (cont.)

Others who have contributed are **Sue Eldridge-Smith**, **Marg O'Brien**, **David Stanton**, and **Sue Nichols**.

Results to date have been a win at home against Mosman 'White', and losses away to Mosman 'Blue', and to Killara.

The 2016 Strathfield Tournament

It was noted last month that this year's annual Strathfield tournament had been grandly titled the *Thought Sport Carnival*, and that a few Cammeray members thought they should be there.

And didn't they do well! **Matt Carden** won his Block, **Marg O'Brien** won hers (for the third year in a row!) and **Ralda Kirton** was second in hers. Not a bad week's work for the Cammeray intelligentsia.

Cammeray Handicap Competition

A 'short-form' competition was held on Friday 29th April, and required competitors play a total of four 14-point 75-minute games. Lifts were given after Hoop 3 and Hoop 4, and the Peg was in play after Hoop 6. The winner was **Ian Lucas** (h'cap 18), who may be remembered as the winner of last year's beginners' competition. His opponent in the final, **John Fransen** (h'cap 3), pegged out one of Ian's balls, and set a leave. With no bisques left, Ian was quite unfazed. He hit in, and ran a magnificent five-hoop two-ball break(!), taking his one remaining ball to the peg for a 14-9 win. Congratulations to both!

AC 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 7th June, Gold on Wednesdays, and Bronze on Thursdays.

The annual 'Morning Tea'

Join us once again for **Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, this Sunday 15th May, at 10.30am.** No charge, but donations will be sought (and delivered to the Cancer Council). So please come prepared! Plenty of fun and games – Pirates, Golf Croquet etc., not to mention all the delicious things that we hear will be gracing the club crockery. Make it a date!



And something new ...

A 'Young Guns' GC competition

Peter and **Rosie Landrebe** have been devoting a lot of time to coaching several young players in Golf Croquet, and their protégés now have their sights set on the World u21 GC Championships in Melbourne next February.

As part of their preparation, they are particularly keen to play against some stiff opposition, and to do so on a lawn with Quadway hoops. So we have volunteered the latter, and offered them **Sunday 5th June**, which we hope causes minimal disruption to regular play. If you would like to be part of the 'stiff competition' they seek, please let us know!

50 years ago ...

Last month we brought you an item under the heading "100 years ago" (the beginning of the first World War), referring to a book on English croquet of that era.

This month we come closer to home, and take as our text a recently found *History of Cammeray Club* by Alma Montagu, published just 50 years ago, in 1976.

Mrs Montagu writes: "Cammeray Club has always been progressive[!] In May 1970, it held the first ever tournament in Australia for Men Only – for the *Albert Saalfeld Trophy* ... but we have had one incident when we were not so [progressive] ..."

It seems that the AGM in 1961 resolved that Cammeray should continue not to take male members. Happily, a Special Meeting in 1962 resolved that the 1961 resolution be rescinded, and that the Club would in future welcome male members. [Phew!]

Mrs Montagu also relates an account of two small lads watching some lady players in action, when one lad was heard to remark to the other: "They must be too old to play polo on horses, so that's why they are walking."

And in the early seventies, we are told, when the lawns were being top-dressed, and while the soil was being spread, a shovel hit a metallic object, which turned out to be a live hand grenade – as revealed by the Bomb Disposal Squad who attended!

And a lesson ...

In a recent competition match, Player #1, seeing both of her opponent's balls near the boundary, elected to shoot at them, and made a great roquet. The striker's ball remained infield, but she duly proceeded to measure in the ball she had struck. Having done so, she then lifted *the other opposition ball*, and went to place it next to the ball she had roqueted.

Player #2 promptly forestalled play, and called the referee, saying that Player #1 had played the wrong ball, a version of events with which Player #1 sadly concurred.

The referee accordingly ruled 'end of turn', and required the balls to be replaced.

Unfortunately, it transpired only later that Player #1 had not actually '*played the wrong ball*', but had simply lifted it preparatory to playing it. As such, she was *at that stage* really guilty of no more than 'failing to take croquet', and her opponent was in fact in breach of Law 23(b)(2).

[Hope we've got that right! - Ed.]