



# Cammeray Croquet Club



NEWSLETTER

May 2017

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

## Oxford Cambridge Day

This year's event was held on the same day as the annual boat race on the Thames, although one heard no mention of it. Croquet was the preferred topic among the twenty or so souls with an affinity to one or other of the universities who enjoyed a very relaxed day's GC, in weather that was less than encouraging.

The afternoon, when your correspondent had departed, became a little more serious, and convener **Juan Roberson** reports that a very tense final was played out in the gathering gloom, with Oxford winning by just one hoop, and the toast being to Julian Todd who once again provided some of his fine BackVintage wines.

## MacRob Shield ... at last!!!

Shortly after WW I, Australian confectionery-maker, philanthropist, and croquet aficionado Sir Macpherson Robertson encouraged his staff to try croquet, believing it would help develop self-discipline and risk management!!

And in 1925, he instituted the now regular challenge between Australia and England. In those early years, Australia dominated, even when NZ came into the competition in 1935. But that was to be the start of a long drought! Then the USA came on board in 1996, making the mountain even harder to climb.

But just a few days ago, at Rancho Mirage, in California, a youthful Australian side, under the guidance of manager/coach **Peter Landrebe**, succeeded in winning all three of the five-day test matches, to lift the shield *for the first time in 82 years!* Peter reports being with a "happy and proud team, who were wonderful ambassadors for croquet and Australia."

Similar comments were made by Cammeray members **Annette du Preez** and **John Gilhooly**, who just happened to be passing(!) and sent this pic ...



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## Editorial

The rain did eventually let up, but we have been without our lawns for most of April, while major drainage work is being carried out. Happily this holds great promise of less paddling and more playing in the future.

The existing shelters have still to be painted, but that work should start soon. And a pair of new shelters for the other end of the lawns have been ordered.

So we are making progress!

Parking continues to be a major problem, particularly while the new cycleway is under construction. But again we are assured that the situation will be very much better once this is finished, and parking bays restored.

Patience seems to be the watchword.

In the meantime, we can offer you the postponed staging of this year's *BirthDay Tournament*, which is now scheduled to start tomorrow(!) **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May**, and finish on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>**. The final will be played at 4.00pm on Saturday with the usual presentation and Barbecue to follow.

Please check the Club website for details.

And I hope we may see you there!

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*Comment on this issue, or contributions for future issues, can be sent to the editor:*  
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## MacRob Shield (cont.)

Sharper eyed readers may notice in the photo above, not just Gilhooly and du Preez, but a trio of Fletcher brothers along with Simon Hockey from SA, Peter Landrebe of course, Ian Dumergue from WA, (Captain) and Stephen Forster from Victoria.

Those who simply cannot get enough of this stuff may like:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-05-05/croquet-macrobertson-shield-australia-wins-fletcher-brothers/8496268>

And an interesting by-product of the win is that we now have Australians as both Men's and Women's World No 1 ranked players – Robert Fletcher has been men's No 1 for some years, and now Alison Sharpe has taken the women's honours.

## The Beryl Chambers Trophy

The North Metropolitan regional qualifying round of this annual NSW handicap singles competition was played at Chatswood on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April. **Lucy Rees** came second in her Block, as did **David Stanton** in his. But that was not enough to get either of them to the finals at Tempe in June.

## CNSW Gold Singles

Over the following few days at Tempe, **Barbara McDonald** won all eight of her games to top this year's competition – the second time she has done so in recent years. With **David Stanton** second, and **David Surridge** third, in a field of nine, this was a very creditable performance, people. Well done, all!



## Club mallet collection

The collection of good quality mallets, which we keep in the clubhouse, is growing. Last year, club member **Lisa Kelshaw**, who is an agent for RPM, kindly provided us with a demonstration mallet. Now Jim Hicks, who represents George Wood Mallets, has generously added one of his. This has a 38" shaft, which may be of particular appeal to those who use the Solomon grip.

All these are now under the supervision of **Ralda Kirton**, who has taken over both mallet hire and ordering club clothing.

If you feel like trying a different mallet, pick one up and give it a go. And if you would like to keep it for longer than just the game you are playing, you can arrange a hiring for just \$10 per month.

## Croquet NSW news item:

We have been asked to advise you that members can now update their details directly on the CNSW website:

<https://croquet-nsw.org/news/170506-Member-Sign-In.html>

Unfortunately, it seems that until we can get the two websites (Cammeray and CNSW) talking to each other, members will need to update their details separately on our website at:

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



## Coaching Notes

*Another extract from notes compiled by **Jarrod Coutts**, a young New Zealander who managed the 2014 MacRob winners.*

## Openings

If you want to do something different, don't be afraid to try! At a junior level, the opening doesn't have that much consequence, as the chances are you will *both* make mistakes soon enough anyway.

At a higher level, and playing someone weaker, don't always 'pair up' on your second shot. If you shoot at your partner or opposition, think about shooting down the line instead, so that if the weaker opposition hits, they have to work to get a break, rather than being given one.

On the flip side, if you are the weaker opposition, don't be afraid to take a chance and have a more aggressive line of play, as the chances are you will not win playing defensively. Therefore;

If you want to be aggressive:

- Place balls in the middle of the lawn in the first, second, or even third shot. This means if you hit with your other ball, it is a lot easier to establish a break.
- Shoot at the opposition ball 2<sup>nd</sup> turn, so that if you hit 4<sup>th</sup> turn you will have 3 balls close together to establish a break (the risk being you may leave a double, and make life easy for the opposition).
- Giving yourself short shots (such as a short tice, or ball in Corner II or IV).

If you want to be defensive:

- Place balls either in the corners, or at maximum positions.
- Don't be 'joined up' if you shoot and miss.

There are hundreds of openings, but if you want the game to be more exciting, don't be afraid to try something new! It could be something as simple as making it compulsory to shoot for H1 with one of your balls in the opening shots in the game, as it will ensure balls finish up in lawn where breaks or hoops are more likely to be scored.