



Cammeray Croquet Club



NEWSLETTER

May 2018

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

Corrigendum ...



What about me ... !

In our last edition, we reported that, even with the help of two Cammeray members, **Alan Walsh** and **Barbara McDonald**, the NSW team could manage only third place in the annual *Eire Cup* interstate competition, and we made the point that the team seemed to be slipping – after winning in 2015 and coming second in 2016 and 2017.

Sadly, it is your editor who is slipping. And it was of course he who received a very sweetly worded and plaintive text message from

Rosie Landrebe, pointing out that in fact *three* Cammeray Members made the State team, and that her results were not too shabby.

For the record, we are delighted to report that Rosie won all five of her doubles matches (partnering Alan Walsh) and nine of her ten singles matches. (Ahem. We dips our lid to ye, ma'am.)

... and Addendum

In recent days, the same **Rosie Landrebe** has been a very successful member of the Australian team in the Trans-Tasman series of Test Matches played in Brisbane, helping the home side to a 3-0 win.

New Members



Abandoning Latin, we can report the addition of two new members in recent weeks.

Robert Elliott is well known to us, not least as winner of last year's Birthday Tournament. He began his croquet at Coogee, is currently president of Chatswood, and has apparently been a member of Cammeray at some stage in the past.

If he had not been so slack in submitting his application to re-join, we would have been able to lay claim to a fourth Cammeray member in the NSW *Eire Cup* team! Welcome back, Rob!

At the same time, we welcome **Tim Woolford-Smith**, who played for several years with the Brunswick Club in North Melbourne back in the eighties. But after a thirty-year break from the game, he is having to work hard to get back to the low single figure handicap he once earned. Keep at it, Tim!



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Editorial

The usual reports on competition play – at National, State, and Club level – can be found in the adjoining column. This column is confined to more exoteric [Look it up!] and less weighty matters, which nonetheless merit being brought to your attention.

More observant members will have noticed our new 'magnetic' corner pegs – another fine New Zealand invention, brought back from there by Alan Walsh, who stumbled across them (metaphorically, of course!) while playing in the recent World Championships.

To go with them, Steve Miles has sourced some lovely new corner flags.

We have also acquired a fine new national flag for the Club, prompted by the very sad state of the ensign which (only just) flew throughout the recent Dixon tournament.

And in case any explanation be needed, the old tennis racket now hanging on the light pylon, at the eastern end of the lawns, is there to help you in returning (tennis) balls!

Finally, we mention the hooks we now have to hold open the lids on equipment boxes on the lawns. Thank you, David Stanton.

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

Hard to believe, I know, but it seems we also quite overlooked the 3-and-under Singles at Tempe in February. Fortunately, **Mike Hughes** has written a comprehensive report in the latest CNSW Newsletter, in which he admits to coming second, with only five wins out of seven, while **Rob Elliott** managed six, to win the event. Great work!



And more recently we have had the Platinum Singles, also at Tempe, with Cammeray again to the fore. **Steve Miles** hit a veritable purple patch to win the event, recording no less than six wins out of six, all of them pegged out, while **Stephen Howes**, only just back from several weeks swanning around the south Atlantic, managed three good wins, to grab second place.

Well done, gentlemen!!

In the meantime, Cammeray have hosted the Northern Sydney division of the 'Beryl Chambers' NSW handicap tournament, from which **Sue Eldridge-Smith** will go to the finals at Tempe.

But the NSW Gold and Silver singles at Tempe last week was less fertile ground for Cammeray, although **Barbara McDonald** who has won more than once before, came third, with **David Stanton** and **Tim Woolford-Smith** in fifth and sixth place, respectively.

Oxford-Cambridge Day at Cammeray

Juan Roberson reports: The last gasp of summer gave us a perfect day for croquet. Attendance was the usual mix of old hands and new blood, and both varieties did well! [*Mixing our metaphors, Juan? Ed.*] Thanks to all who joined in to make the day a success. Despite an unusually large number who were unable to attend at the last moment, we still had around 25 for the day.

And thanks as always to our mentors; this year we had **Rob Elliott**, **Alan Walsh**, **Neil Hardie**, and **Ian Lucas**, who gave their time generously to coach the players. And Julian Todd, of *BackVintage* fame, again donated some of his fine wine as prizes.

After a social morning of free play, each team determined their first pair and second pair on the day, through internal play-offs.

In the final for the 'first pairs', the Dark Blues prevailed. Last year's winners, Robin Mills and Robert Mills, beat this year's challengers, Michael Wright and Graham Hall, 4-2. Of the minor places, the Light Blues' 'second pair' had the consolation of taking third.



From L to R:
Robert Laurie
(Oxon)
Michael Wright
(Cantab)
Robin Mills
(Oxon)
Graham Hall
(Cantab)

A friendly competitive spirit is alive and well, with both sides vowing to get in some sly practice between now and next year, when the rivalry will, we hope, be played out on the lawns again. We have now had over 80 different individual participants over the past six years and a good number have become regular attendees.

Passing thoughts ...



Prompted by what he read about cricket's now infamous 'ball-tampering' episode, **Juan Roberson** was moved to write ...

"... I am especially pleased that my game of choice, croquet, is fully amateur and as yet unblemished – to

the best of my knowledge. But what if there were millions of dollars at stake?

At present the gentlemanly (and ladylike) players largely regulate the game themselves as they go along. A player calls the referee if he or she thinks that they might commit a fault with their next shot (an awkward one, where a fault could easily occur). Could we see referees on the lawn all the time – or even video-refereeing?

Equipment has got better and better in recent years – firmer and more precisely measured hoops; carefully regulated and consistently manufactured balls; scientifically designed mallets. Could there still be ball tampering? And what about mallet tampering (yours or an opponent's)? Could doping improve personal performance? And how about some sledging to disturb an opponent?

I asked a well-established player about this once, but there seemed not much to tell. Maybe others have some stories? Would Stephen Potter (the father of sledging?) have any suggestions here? Points to ponder ..."

And prompted by Juan's huge contribution to Cammeray literature, your Editor is moved to wonder if his replacement might be in sight ...

Coming events ...

You can download a Schedule of Cammeray and CNSW events for 2018 from: <http://www.cammeray-croquet.org.au/pdfs/2018Events.pdf>

Of immediate interest might be:

- Cammeray Birthday Tournament played from Thursday 10th to Saturday 12th May
- CNSW Pennants Competition starting 5th June.