



Cammeray Croquet Club



'Penultimate Issue'

May 2019

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

CNSW Events 1

The recent NSW 'Division' championships produced some interesting results.

There were no Cammeray entrants in the *Bronze* competition, won by Fidy Westgarth of Mosman, with six wins out of six.



But the *Silver* division was won by Cammeray's **Sue Eldridge-Smith**, who won four of her six games, losing only to Di Scott from Wollongong – whom **Werner Kos** succeeded in beating twice!

The *Gold* division was won by Ted Woodley of Chatswood, with **David Stanton** in third place.

And *Platinum* was won by Mike Gidding of Ballina, with **Barbara McDonald** as runner-up. Which leads us to the ...

Cammeray Birthday Tournament



Superbly managed by our new Games Captain, **Sandra Colquhoun**, this year's tournament was another great event, with all the usual upsets to be expected in handicap play, and some terrific croquet, particularly in the final rounds.

Peter Colquhoun had a very good run before falling to eventual finalist, Mike Gidding. **Steve Miles** also fell to Mike, but was able to beat **David Surridge** and **Marg O'Brien** for a place in the semi-final.



And **Barb McDonald** had wins against both **Sue Eldridge-Smith** and **Marg**, to earn the other semi-final place, where she succeeded in beating Steve, 26-23.

So, if you got lost in all that, the final was between Mike and Barbara (who you will recall finished first and second in the NSW Platinum Championship reported above). This time, Barbara was out of the blocks very smartly, running a good nine, and following it with an equally good twelve. The finishing five was interrupted by Mike making a break, but Barbara was ultimately able to square the ledger – taking the *Maureen Cope Trophy* with a 24-10 win.



Ron, Barbara, Mike, and Gerard

The 'Plate' produced an equally fascinating final, with Ron Buist of Killara beating Gerard Barry of Chatswood, 19-18, on a 'golden' hoop.

And thank you again, Mal Russell, for all the prize money!

In this issue ...

- Recent CNSW Events:
The Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum Championships;
The Beryl Chambers Trophy;
The NSW Mens' Open Singles
- Cammeray Birthday Tournament
- Cammeray Cub Championship
- Letter to the Editor

Editorial

This month's edition is a little late, but it does cover a lot of activity on the lawns. So much so, that we have been obliged to use this space to make a further report and announcement.

Last month we left you hanging on the result of the Club Handicap Competition – with the final being played the day after 'going to press'. Now we can tell you that **Peter Colquhoun** prevailed in the 'best of three' final match, in which his opponent was already 'one-up' having won their game in the block play. Well done, Peter!

Your editor is no longer privy to committee deliberations, and has to remember to 'log in' and search the minutes for items of interest. As a result, we can now advise that Pennant Competitions start in June, which means (a) that the lawns may not always be available for regular sessions of play, and (b) that *you may be invited to take part!*

And we have been saying it for a while, but it really is time for someone with a bit of flair and imagination to bring a new look and new life to this publication – which has become tired and formulaic (rather like its editor). Don't wait to be asked. Come and talk about!

Comment (and job applications) can be sent to the editor, Michael Strickland:

stricko@ozemail.com.au

CNSW Events 2

More recently we have had the Northern Sydney Region play-offs for the *Beryl Chambers Memorial Trophy*, a handicap event which was again played at Cammeray, and attracted several Cammeray



players – including the two lowest handicappers and ultimate winners of the two blocks – **Rosie** and **Peter Landrebe**. Both pegged out in all four games, and exhibited extraordinary patience waiting for the forest of bisques to fall!



Sadly, one hears, they won't be available to play in the finals at Tempe over the June long weekend, but we shall keep you posted.

Gammeray Club Championship

The following week saw the final of this year's club championship with **Alan Walsh** back in the winners' circle, after beating **Mike Hughes** 26-16.

CNSW Events 3

A couple of days later, a few Cammeray players – **Peter Landrebe**, **Alan Walsh**, **Mike Hughes**, and **Steve Miles** – were involved at Tempe in the *CNSW Mens' Open Singles* championship. Mike could play only in the round-robin on Friday, but made the most of the opportunity to avenge the recent defeat at Cammeray, winning his match against Alan 26-1.

Alan then went on to beat Ted Salter and Trevor Bassett, before meeting Rob Elliott in the final – Rob having beaten Tim Murphy and Peter Landrebe to get there.



The best-of-three games final saw Alan come out on top yet again, winning 18-17 and 26-10. So another mugshot, and more congratulations Alan!!

Letter to the Editor

In response to last month's Newsletter, a reader (perhaps *the* reader) was moved to write:

"Sir – I recently read the March edition of the *Croquet NSW Newsletter* and found it pleasing in the mutual appreciation of the great effort put in by volunteer officials in our sport, together with an update of what is happening in the CNSW bubble. The travelogues and club news were entrancing, and a lot of the type-setting was really quite good."

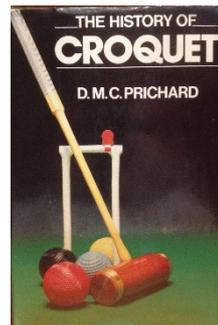
Then, in what I incline to see as a job-application, the writer went on to disparage our own august publication, suggesting it was ...

"... full of nastiness about us poor mortals being in presumed ignorance of the rules. We, Happy Wanderers, enjoy a certain latitude in interpreting Laws 32-39 for our peculiar advantage.

Our suggestion would be to complete a further 60 editions if you are ever going to reach the journalistic standards exemplified by the CNSW organ or even the *Daily Telegraph*."

'Ha ha' to that. Readers (if the plural can be used) may have noticed that this edition is labelled 'Penultimate Issue'. Not 61st from last!

More jottings from the early days ...



... *time to confess indebtedness to a fine work*, *The History of Croquet* by *DCM Prichard*, as the source of much that has been written in this column about the early game.

The Club's copy will be returned to its rightful place on the bookshelf very shortly.

Not long ago, we wrote of a serious division in the early years, when the authority of the newly formed *All England Croquet Club* was challenged by a rival group calling themselves the *National Croquet Club*.

It seems to have been only when one particularly egotistical member of the breakaway group was called to the great croquet lawn in the sky, that serious rapprochement could be achieved.

By then the AECC had secured a lease of land at Wimbledon, but it took another ten years –and the introduction of tennis – before the freehold could be purchased.



The 1871 championships saw an innovation, which was carried over to the early years of the tennis championships – the previous year's winners were not required to play through the competition, and merely had to defend their titles in a 'challenge round'.

And 1874 saw the introduction of 3¾ inch steel hoops (down from 4½"). These were firmly set into sockets in large oak blocks. Balls seem to have been standardised at 3⅝ inches from as far back as 1870, and the new hoops were a challenge which it seems may well have contributed to the game's decline.

At all events, by 1877, the Club had become the *All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club*, with the first tennis championships held that year – and the rest, as they say, is history.