



Cammeray Croquet Club



NEWSLETTER November 2017

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

ACA 'President's Eights'



This elite event, conducted by the ACA at the beginning of October, brings together thirty-two of the best players (men and women) from around the country – not least to give the national selectors an opportunity to see who might be pressing for inclusion in the Australian team.

Competition is organised in four blocks of eight, with players having to play each other block member twice. Cammeray's sole representative, **Peter Landrebe**, distinguished himself by winning ten games out of twelve, and topping the second eight. Well done yet again, Pete!

Manly Seabreeze GC Competition

The Golf Croquet competition had four Cammeray members taking part. **Stephen Howes** and yours truly played in Block A, where the top four all finished with three wins, and places were determined by 'net hoops' scored – unfortunately leaving Cammeray out of the money. But **Steve Miles** was a convincing winner of Block C, with four wins out of five. Well done, that man!

And Steve teamed up with **Sue Nichols** to win three out of their five games in the doubles competition.

Manly Seabreeze AC Competition

The following week saw no less than twelve Cammeray members in action, even after **Sue**



Nichols was struck down by a bug on Day 1, and had to withdraw. Best performed were **Sandra Colquhoun**, who won all her games in Block 5, and **Georgie Ofner** who came second in Block 3.



Georgie and **Marg O'Brien** teamed up to reach the final of the Handicap Doubles, where they were narrowly beaten by Killara's Ron Buist playing with Cammeray's **Michael Gill**, pictured here anxiously watching the women closing in on them.



And **Sue Eldridge-Smith** made the semi-final of the Handicap Singles.

Another terrific fortnight's croquet! And next year's event, we are told, will be the fiftieth – promising an even more special occasion.

In this issue

- ACA President's Eights
- Manly Seabreeze Golf Croquet
- Manly Seabreeze AC
- Sawtell AC Open Competition
- The Tempe Open
- Cammeray Competitions
- Cammeray Xmas Party on 26th Nov
- Committee Deliberations
- Painting 'Bee' on 3rd December

Editorial

October was a busy month, and there is no shortage of results to bring you, as the adjoining column reveals.

But competition does slow down a bit towards the end of the year, and while there will be results to report next month – including the NSW Open and the Australian Open – we shall be looking seriously for other items of interest to distract you in coming editions.

October was also witness to the first decent rain in months – a good soak which has generated a few green shoots in the parched turf surrounding the lawns – but it has not been enough to put our new drainage system to the test. Those with connections to *Jupiter Pluvius* are asked to put in a call!

And so to November. We shall say only that your editor will be all over the State during the month – for all sorts of reasons – and it may or may not be the case that such peregrinations prompt a short piece in a future Newsletter.

Comment on this issue, or contributions for future issues, can be sent to the editor:
Michael Strickland
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Sawtell AC Open Competition

For those who may not get out much, Sawtell lies on the mouth of Bonville Creek, a few clicks south of Coffs Harbour. With two full-size lawns and over a hundred members, they succeeded in attracting 24 players from around the State (including four from Cammeray) for four days of competition in mid-October.

Marg O'Brien came second in Block C, **Sandra Colquhoun** won four games to come second in Block D, and we are assured that **Georgie Ofner** and **Peter Colquhoun** also enjoyed themselves.

The 'Tempe Open'

This year's event was played to 'super advanced' rules (involving lifts after Hoops 4, 1-back, and 4-back). Cammeray's **Rosie Landrebe** and **Alan Walsh** took part ... and finished first and second respectively. Not a bad effort! Well done, both!

Cammeray Competitions

Back home, there has also been plenty of action.

- The Platinum division has reached a final to be played between the winners of the two blocks, **Stephen Howes** and **Steve Miles**.
- The Gold division involved three players in a 'double round-robin', with **Barbara McDonald** beating each of the others twice, to win the championship once again.
- Silver also involved just three players, but they each recorded both a win and a loss against the others. A count of 'net hoops' gave the trophy to **Ian Lucas** by a wide margin.
- And **Sandra Colquhoun** rounded out a good year, beating **Michael Gill** 11-8 in the final of the Bronze competition.

Xmas (well almost) Party

The annual 'end of year' social event (including presentation of trophies and awards) is on **Sunday afternoon, 26th November**, starting at 4.30pm. \$20 will see you well fed and suitably refreshed.

Committee Deliberations

At our October Committee Meeting, there was some discussion of subscriptions and fees for the coming year. The consensus was that Annual Subscriptions (which fall due on 1st January) should remain the same, viz \$200pa for Full Members and \$85pa for Restricted Members (including Affiliation fees). But it was decided to increase Green Fees to \$3 per day (plus \$1 for the use of the lights), while retaining the same weekly maximum of \$6.

Painting 'Bee'

Your correspondent has always been bemused at this use of the word, but takes comfort in OED definition 3: "a meeting for communal work or amusement". At all events, you are advised that help is sought on **Sunday 3rd December** from 10.00am to assist in the painting of the seats around the lawns, which now look a bit shabby against the new shelters. Refreshment will be provided!!

Unsung Heroes ...

... some personal observations on a couple of members who have caught your editor's attention in recent times.

Penny Garrett is not a member of the Committee, but attends all our meetings as 'Minute Secretary', to record just what is proposed and decided, and who is to do what to implement those decisions. As anyone with even a minimal experience of meetings would know, this is not always an easy task.



But Penny can amaze with the speed of her work and the accuracy of what she has noted in her inscrutable shorthand. It is customary to receive a draft of the minutes within hours of a meeting. And apart from the odd split infinitive (only kidding, Penny!) corrections are needed only to remedy our own failure to make ourselves clear.

I was reminded of this in reading a recent missive from **Juan Roberson**, who spoke of a chance encounter with a Friend. [The capitalisation of the last word had me puzzled until I realised he was referring to a member of the 'Religious Society of Friends', or Quakers.] But it seems the encounter prompted recollection of some quotes he (Juan) had put together years before about how Quakers manage their meetings, and what we might learn from them. I quote minimally ...

'The extraction of sense from some Meetings calls for no little skill. It is not just a matter of counting speeches for and against. The silence of some is often of greater significance than the speech of others.' [!]

'But the Clerk has also his moments of relief ... the experienced Clerk knows that when X or Y rises to speak he can go ahead with the drafting of his minute undisturbed; not all Friends are equally gifted with a sense of relevance.' [!!]

Juan is no longer involved in our meetings, but he does still devote much time to coaching beginners, and inspiring others (such as me).

Thank you, Penny, and thank you, Juan!