



# Cammeray Croquet Club



NEWSLETTER      October 2015

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

## A singular honour ...

It is a pleasure to begin this Newsletter with report of the honour recently bestowed on club member **Stephen Howes**, who has been appointed Tournament Referee for next year's World AC Championships to be held in Palm Beach, Florida, next April. Hearty congratulations, Stephen, on such lofty recognition!

## Results

### CNSW Tempe Open



This prestigious event was held over the weekend of 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> September. The winner was Cammeray's **Peter Landrebe**, who managed to peg out in all his matches and to triple-peel in no less than five of them. Second and third places went to **Alan Walsh** and **Rosie Landrebe** respectively, and **Stephen Howes** acquitted himself with distinction. Well done all!

### CNSW Platinum Brooch

As mentioned last month, each of the State "Brooch" competitions is aimed at an overlapping range of handicaps, and the Platinum Brooch played on 30<sup>th</sup> September, is for those with handicaps from 0 up to 2.5.

Cammeray's **Mike Hughes** won three out of three, to take the Brooch.



### CNSW Gold Brooch

(For handicaps from 3 to 6) was played on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September. **Steve Miles** managed third place and **Stephen Howes** fourth.

### Golf Croquet Interstate Shield

Cammeray members **Rosie** and **Peter Landrebe** were part of the eight-member NSW team which sadly failed to bring home the silver on offer in Tasmania during September.

### ACA President's Eights - Cairnlea 2015

Two Cammeray members – **Alan Walsh**, and **Ken Edwards** – were selected to play in the prestigious President's Eights, at Cairnlea in Victoria from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of this month, an event which brings together most of the best players in Australia. And we are delighted to report that Alan managed to come second in the second Eight, winning an impressive 9 out of 14 games against some pretty stiff opposition. Great work, Alan!

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## Editorial

Not a lot of 'colour and movement' in this issue, which is largely given over to a catalogue of results and forthcoming events – with little to excite the reader looking for something more than the mundane or pedestrian.

But for anyone who may fit that description, we reproduce the following literary gem, which appeared on the letters page of the *Sydney Morning Herald* only the other day, under the heading, What's all the fuss?

*"I am at a loss to understand the fuss over a 'golden point' decision in the recent NRL grand final.*

*In the ancient and noble game of Croquet, we regularly resolve a match that is tied at full-time with what is known as a 'golden hoop', and nary a word of complaint – from the players, the crowd, the sponsors, the fans watching on TV, or the press.*

*Perhaps we are just more in need of a beer after our two-and-a-half hours of real toil."*

Modesty precludes the naming of the author.

More can be found on the next page ...

## Manly Seabreeze 2015

And at the time of writing, a substantial cohort of Cammeray members are smack in the middle of the 47<sup>th</sup> annual extravaganza of croquet hosted by Manly CC under the name of 'Seabreeze' – something which was very welcome on the first couple of days, when temperatures climbed even above the score which the Wallabies posted against England the previous Saturday.



The Golf Croquet competition has concluded, with Cammeray player **Annette du Preez** winning her Block convincingly, and then blitzing the field again in the finals, to lift the A Division singles trophy. A terrific performance Annette!

And **Neil Hardie** and **Stephen Howes** both came second in their respective Blocks.

Now we have a week of Association Croquet. Results are available on *croquetscores* ... but we shall report next month.

## Forthcoming events ...

### NSW Open Singles

I am asked to remind you that the NSW Open Singles competition will be held over the weekend of Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October to Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Depending on the number of entries, the format is likely to be a round-robin, followed by knock-out rounds to a final, with a plate competition to boot. Aspiring players are encouraged to enter. Even being beaten by better players is a good learning experience.

### The Australian Open

And the Australian Open championships will be played at Cairnlea in Victoria, from Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, with the Doubles competition on the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, followed by the Singles, from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Club Notices

### Christmas Party

The **Christmas Party** will be held on **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November**. Drinks and tapas from 4.30 to 6.30pm. Fun and games ditto. Please respond by 22<sup>nd</sup> November, by entering your name on the list at the Club, or contacting either **Jan Thomas** on 9953 8708 (or mobile 0416 186 072) or **Marg O'Brien** on 9439 3168 (mobile 0412 750 078).

Preferred method of payment of the **\$20** is by direct deposit to the Club Bank Account (CBA Neutral Bay) BSB 062-210 Acct 10137878.

### Next Year's Dates

Next year's **BirthDay Tournament** will run from **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February**.

During the following week there will be a qualifying competition for the last couple of places in the **Dixon Advisory Classic**, which will run from **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>**. With the substantial prizemoney again offered by Dixon Advisory, we can look forward to a quality field, playing some top croquet.

## Story-time

Thanks are due to the several members of the club who clearly have nothing better to do than scour the pages of the international press. David Stanton, David Surridge, Mike Hebden, and Peter Colqhoun have all been kind enough to draw attention to a story which was recently reported in no less than the *London Daily Telegraph*, *The Daily Mail*, *The Guardian*, and no doubt more.

The Guardian related the story thus ...

*“Henry McCarty, known in Wild West lore as Billy the Kid, lived a brief and violent life, stealing and killing, before his death in a gunfight aged 21. He lived with a gun in his hand – and sometimes, it seems, a croquet mallet.”*



[Billy is the player on the left, apparently.]

It seems that this is only the second photo of McCarty (aka the Kid) ever to be authenticated, and shows him playing the sport in New Mexico in 1878.

The faded image (of which the above is just an extract) was in a pile of photos in a cardboard box at a junk shop in Fresno, California, unearthed in 2010 by a collector who paid just \$2 (£1.30) for it.

Now it is estimated to be worth millions of dollars. The only other confirmed photo of Billy the Kid, from 1880, sold for \$2.3m (£1.5m) in 2011.

We are re-assured by comment from the Croquet Association in UK that the scene left little doubt what was being played: *“It’s clearly croquet. You can see the hoops, the balls, the mallet, the centre-peg. They’re all there. It’s a fascinating picture.”*

And the US Croquet Association was able to add a further titillating snippet of history: *“Croquet as a public sport suffered a setback in the 1890s when the Boston clergy spoke out against the drinking, gambling, and licentious behaviour that came with it.”*

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Comment on this issue, and/or contribution to the next, can be sent to ... [Michael Strickland](mailto:Michael.Strickland@ozemail.com.au)  
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