



Cammeray Croquet Club



NEWSLETTER

October 2017

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

CNSW Gold Brooch

In case you had forgotten, the annual 'Brooch' events are designed to 'straddle' two divisions, in this case Platinum and Gold, with entry limited to those with handicaps from 3 to 6. This year's event was played at Tempe on Monday and Tuesday, 4th and 5th September, and the field was dominated by Cammeray members.



The winner's grin you see to the right is that of Cammeray's own **David Stanton**, who didn't just win the competition, but managed to win five matches out of five! Well done, sir!! Modesty forbids too much commentary on other Cammeray performances, but **Barbara McDonald**, **Sue Nichols**, and **Steve Miles** all upheld the honour of the Club, while showing due deference in finishing behind the writer.

CNSW Bronze Medal – 16 & 17 Sept

More explanation may be needed for the uninitiated (or for anyone tempted to confuse a *Brooch* with a *Medal*). The Bronze 'Medal' is played for by the very top players in the State, with the winner going on to play against Bronze Medal winners from other States, in competition for the ACA *Gold Medal*. [I think I have got that right.]

Cammeray members **Peter Landrebe** and **Alan Walsh**, were there, and gave a good account of themselves. Indeed, Alan opened his account on Day 1 with wins against the top four seeds. But he could not repeat his success of last year, and had to be content with five wins out of seven, and third place. (Not too shabby, Alan!)

CNSW Open Women's Singles



The following weekend saw the Women's Singles competition also played at Tempe, with Cammeray represented by **Barbara McDonald**, **Sue Eldridge-Smith**, and **Lucy Rees**. This is 'level' play (no bisques), open to all (women), and would have presented a serious challenge



to lesser mortals. Eight games over three days, and with temperatures reaching 30 degrees, not to mention a field which included a recent World No 1 ranked player.

But each of them rose to the occasion and recorded good wins. Well done, all! [Our only regret is not being able find a pic of Lucy.]

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Editorial

This edition is prepared in some haste, as we gird our loins for the annual croquet extravaganza at Manly this fortnight.

The GC competition may well have started by the time you read this, with several Cammeray members seriously involved.

For those more concerned with the AC competition the following week, we are pleased to publish some notes on the use of bisques, for which we have to thank that tireless contributor, **Neil Hardie**. [See further down this column on the next page.]

And in taking our leave, we take the opportunity to mention that the lawns are in a very fragile condition at the moment. A month without rain has left them like concrete, with hoop and peg holes crumbling like sand. The peg holes, in particular, are in need of some serious 'R and R' and we ask that you leave the pegs in place for the time being, to save on wear.

And when things get better, please remember not to 'waggle' either pegs or hoops when removing them. Try 'unscrewing' the centre pegs, and lifting the hoops with the device provided.

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

Coming up, on the weekend of 28th/29th October, is the annual 'Tempe Open', which as the name suggests is open to all-comers. This year's event will be played to 'super advanced' rules, involving more than just the usual lifts. David Stanton will be happy to explain.

And you still have time to enter the premier CNSW event of the year, the NSW Open Singles Championship, to be held at Tempe from Saturday 4th to Tuesday 7th November.

Cammeray Competitions

Back home, the Platinum, Gold, and Silver championships are all now underway. If you really cannot wait for a fuller report next month you can follow progress on the scoring grids on the notice board in the Clubhouse.

Social Events (get the diary out!)

A reminder that **coming up, on Sunday 29th October**, a further event is planned, at which our irrepressible Games Captain will introduce you to the game of 'Scarborough', with which some may already be familiar. Promises to be great fun. Put it on your diary now!

And the Christmas Party (including presentation of trophies and awards) will be held on **Sunday afternoon, 26th November**.

Committee Deliberations

At last month's Committee Meeting, there was some discussion of the cost of wine. More observant members may have noticed that we now source our supply from *BackVintage* wines in Northbridge. Julian Todd, the founder of the firm, has been a very generous supporter of the Club over the past few years, and it has to be said that his wines do represent exceptional value for money. Have a look at: <https://www.backvintage.com.au>

But they are a little more expensive than the beverages we have been used to, and the committee was unanimous in asking you now to make a slightly increased donation of \$4 (Four Dollars) per glass. Or, if you are opening a new bottle, consider contributing \$15, and enjoying the whole thing (you can always share it!). That way we minimise wastage – call it a sustainable drinking policy, if you like.

Bouquets

We did have a few 'brickbats' ready – for such capital offences as leaving the lawn-dividing boards out of the ground (rendering them quite ineffective) or not putting hoses away after use (just leaving them for people to trip over). But we have been rendered inordinately charitable by recent reports – and 'bouquets' win out!

Specifically, we hear from several of our new members who are still enjoying 'supervised play', that they have plucked up the courage to join a session of Bronze play, and have come away not just unscathed but positively uplifted by the experience and the warmth of the welcome they received.

Hearty congratulations to all concerned!!

Using Bisques ...

These notes have been extracted from the first of a series of articles written by Neil Hardie all of which can be found on the Club website, and are highly recommended reading.



Neil's three main strategies for using bisques:

(a) the 'keep it going' strategy

This is used against a very good player who can finish in two or three turns. This kind of opponent is usually good at roqueting, so wherever you leave the balls, your opponent is likely to 'hit in' and make a long break. If you are a high handicap player you will have a lot of bisques. Even a silver player against a platinum grade, will still have at least five and a half bisques.

The plan here is to set up a four-ball break (using one or more bisques) and take a bisque whenever you break down, **to keep the break going.**

(b) the 'make every bisque count' strategy

This is used when you have only a few bisques. There is not a great difference in skill between the players, and your opponent may need a lot of turns to finish the game.

The plan is to use each bisque where it will have the greatest effect – in other words, when you can almost certainly make two or more hoops with the bisque, **or when you can stop your opponent from making several hoops.**

(c) the 'use with care' strategy

This is the strategy when you have a reasonable number of bisques, but not enough to keep using them regardless. Your opponent is a good player, but not someone who can finish in a couple of turns. Here you set up a break and try to keep it going.

But if you get to a position where another bisque will not help your break much, **and your opponent is unlikely to make a break, you allow them a turn.**

Neil then goes into the two main strategies for those playing *against* an opponent who has bisques, namely (a) to 'hit in' and make a break, or (b) to try to 'draw' the bisques. In practice, a blend of both would be adopted.

For the full series of articles, go to:

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