



# Cammeray Croquet Club



NEWSLETTER

October 2018

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

## CNSW Open Women's Singles

Conditions were near perfect for this event, played at Cammeray over the last weekend of September, although the weather on Saturday afternoon had the modest band of spectators heading for the tennis court end of the lawns and some glorious sunshine, while anyone confined to the other end had to suffer wind and shade and a temperature 10deg cooler!

Congratulations to **Barbara McDonald**, (pictured) who won the Win Dickinson trophy (for the best performed NSW player not in the main final), and to **Sue Eldridge-Smith** who gave a very good account of herself as runner-up in the Plate competition.



But the winner of the main event was Alison Sharpe of Killara who won all her matches, and went on to beat Alix Verge 2-0 in the best-of-three final.

## Forster AC Spring Carnival

We have to thank Peter Colqhoun for reporting what a thoroughly well-run and enjoyable tournament this was. And a look at the results certainly reveals a very strong field. Ever the gentleman, Peter did not omit to mention that **Sandra Colqhoun** won all of her games, and of course topped her Block. Well done, ma'am!



## Port Macquarie GC Tournament

A week later, **Stephen Howes** ventured further up the coast, to Port Macquarie, for their annual Golf Croquet event. There he succeeded in winning Block A, including a very good win against the lowest handicapped player in the field, Peter Coles, who plays off 0, and whom he allowed to get to a 5-0 lead before getting his act together and coming back to win 7-6. Well done, Stephen!



## 50<sup>th</sup> Manly 'Seabreeze' GC Tournament

**Steve Miles** is rapidly becoming a fixture in the winners' circle. And like Stephen Howes, he doesn't stop at AC. In the Golf Croquet competition in the first week of the annual Manly carnival, he managed to win all five games and finish on top of Block A.



At the same time, **Werner Kos**, playing in his first competition, came second in Block D.

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## Editorial

To some extent at least, this month's issue may bear an uncanny similarity to last month's. Competitions we alerted you to then have now been played and are reported on. And the same people seem to be winning! (How do they do it! We'll come to that\*.)

You may also find yourself reading again of other events which have been announced once already, but are still yet to take place.

And our piece on video-refereeing may look familiar, but is in fact a continuation in which we bring you Neil Hardie's thoughts on the subject.

All this only means that you need to pay very careful attention to be sure you are not missing something *really important!*

And what could be more important than the 'working bee' planned for **10.00am on Sunday morning, 21<sup>st</sup> October!**

\*The answer seems to be practice!! (With a little regular guidance or mentoring thrown in). Apart from the opportunity which everyone has to use the lawns for practice outside designated sessions of play, we can also steer you to 'assistance' in the form of coaching on Wednesdays, after the regular morning session of play. Just ask!

*Comment on this issue, or contributions for future issues, can be sent to the editor: Michael Strickland [stricko@ozemail.com.au](mailto:stricko@ozemail.com.au)*

## And the 'Seabreeze' AC Tournament

The following week, the same **Steve Miles** joined three other Cammeray members – **Stephen Howes**, **Barbara McDonald**, and your correspondent – playing in Block 1 of the AC competition. And yes, he was a winner again!! Well done, sir!

But it was lovely to see the Club playing and succeeding at *all* levels. **David Stanton** won Block 2. **Marg O'Brien** and **Ian Lucas** played in Block 3. **Evelyn Humpherson** won Block 4, with **Sue Eldridge-Smith** in support. And **Mike Gill** won Block 5, which included **Graham Maynard**, **Lucy Rees**, and **Werner Kos**.

**Neil Hardie** won his way through to the semi-final of the Handicap Singles event, and **Stephen Howes** teamed up with **Evelyn Humpherson** to make the final of the Handicap Doubles

The weather was hideously inclement, although the sandy soil drained the lawns remarkably quickly, and no one had to worry about sunburn, or when the eponymous 'sea breeze' might kick-in to provide relief!

## Club 'Division' Championships

The *Gold* Division competition has been completed, with **Barbara McDonald** emerging a clear winner (again), winning four out of four matches. But it should be mentioned that subsequently playing in the Women's Open as reported above, Barbara lowered her handicap to 4.5, taking her out of Gold and into the Platinum division.

*Silver* Division has been postponed, but entries are now open for the *Bronze* Division championship.

## Sydney Premier League

As mentioned last month, this competition has been resurrected, and play started on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October, with some great contests and a terrific dinner, thank you, Sue! And Alison Sharpe continued her superb form from the Women's Open, winning both her matches.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> will see Cammeray's **Alan Walsh**, **Mike Hughes**, and both **Peter** and **Rosie Landrebe** in action, along with John Bartrop from Killara and Garreth Denyer from Marrickville.

Games start at 5.00pm and 7.30pm, with 'lights out' at 10.00.

## House and Grounds

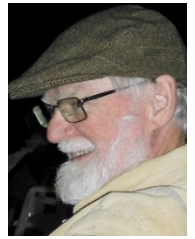
'Scarifying, coring, and fertilising' were duly carried out, putting the lawns out of use for only one day. A week later, the Council ground staff cut and re-marked the lawns early on the morning of the NSW Women's singles. Truly, we are well looked after.

*And the Spring 'working bee' we have been banging on about is coming together nicely. We have a paving team, looking after the Ernest St entrance, a clubhouse 'scrubbing down' team, a few willing painters, including our resident professional painter, and we can use as many gardeners as we can get to help with weeding the lawn surrounds. Please bring along a weeding tool if you have one. Even old kitchen forks have been known to serve!*



## Laws, Lawyers, and Videos

*As was to be expected (and indeed hoped for) last month's piece on video-refereeing duly prompted **Neil Hardie**, to share his thoughts on the issue – but he concludes by questioning the need for more lawyers!!!*



*Neil writes ...* I was intrigued by the Editor's comments last month on interpreting the laws of croquet, and using video cameras to help make decisions.

The laws of croquet are a minefield; too close a study leads to more confusion than clarity. For example, the laws say that in a croquet stroke the double contact must be 'visible', where 'visible' means "capable of being seen by someone with normal eyesight standing in a good position to observe the stroke". This does not require the actual referee to see the double contact, only that it be visible to someone paying attention and with good eyesight.

So a referee who is distracted might still use other evidence that the fault would have been visible if he had been focusing properly. In most split shots the striker's ball will finish in a different position if it is struck twice as compared to clean stroke; so this can be used to judge if the fault occurred (though croquet shots are rarely watched unless they are hampered). Whether this double contact was actually visible is difficult to determine.

The law that forbids the mallet to remain in contact with the striker's ball for an 'observable period' is even more difficult, as nearly every roll shot offends against this. The referee has to use common sense and tradition to decide whether the contact period is excessive or not.

Most video recordings are used to look at attempts to run angled hoops from close range, where double taps are a possibility. In this case there is no requirement in the law for 'visibility', so the referee is free to use any evidence that comes to hand, including the line of the shot, the sounds, the finishing position of the balls, and the final position of the mallet.

But one thing we don't need is more lawyers! The current complexity of the laws is, I am sure, due to lawyers trying to get around the laws, so that extra clauses have to be inserted. Let's keep to pragmatism and flexibility in using the laws, and not look too closely to the precise wording!