



Cammeray Croquet Club



NEWSLETTER

September 2018

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

ACA (NSW) Bronze Medal

The NSW ACA 'Bronze Medal' was played at Tempe over the penultimate weekend of August. The eight players involved were competing for the right to represent NSW in the Australian 'Gold/Silver Medal' event to be played in Perth next March.

It is yet again a pleasure to record that Cammeray's **Alan Walsh** won that right, and the NSW Bronze Medal, by winning six of his seven matches. Trevor Bassett had the same number of wins, but an inferior 'net hoop score', and **Mike Hughes** had five good wins to finish in third place. Well done, gentlemen!

CNSW Gold Brooch

The following weekend saw several Cammeray players competing for the CNSW 'Gold Brooch' at Tempe. Each of the 'Brooch' events, you will no doubt recall, is designed for players in a handicap range which straddles two of the standard handicap divisions.

In this case, the range was 3 to 6 – taking in the top of Gold and the bottom of Platinum – and giving some gold players a chance to knock over a few of their supposed 'betters', and platinum players a chance to monster those from the lower division. And there was a fair bit of both.



Your correspondent succeeded in snatching inglorious defeat from the jaws of scarcely-earned victory on a couple of occasions, and it was left to **Steve Miles** (yet again) and **Barbara McDonald** to uphold the honour the club – the former winning all five matches and the brooch, the latter finishing in second place, with four wins. Well done, both!

Australian GC Championships

This year's national Golf Croquet championships, were played over four days, and at four venues – Maitland, Toronto, The Entrance, and Newcastle. Once again we have to congratulate **Peter Landrebe** for winning the men's singles event. And we also congratulate Alison Sharpe of Killara, and a regular visitor to Cammeray, on winning the women's title.

Cammeray Events

With the *Platinum* Championship decided and reported on last month (a win to David Stanton), we are now looking at the *Gold* division in which competition is well underway, and the *Silver* division (handicaps 9-12) for which entries are now open! **See the form on the table in the clubhouse or contact the Games Captain, Steve Miles.**

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Editorial

Plenty of good results to report this month, from competition both at home and beyond. And more to come before the end of the year, of course. Watch this space!

Not everyone does, apparently! Astonishing as it may seem (after the original mention last month), I have now found yet another member who has not been reading this journal from cover to cover (or top to bottom) immediately on its being published!

This particular member (who shall remain as nameless as he is shameless) spent several minutes painstakingly suggesting to me that we include in these pages a brief introduction of any new members, along with a photograph! Readers who are familiar with our practice in this regard may be relieved to know that I have just recovered my breath from chasing him off the lawns.

Sad to have to 'postpone' the Spring social event, but those who enjoy gathering at the Club can take comfort in knowing that we have another 'working bee' planned instead – 10.00am on Sunday morning, 21st October! No special skills required. Plenty of tasks that anyone can help with. (See list on next page.)

And refreshment will be provided – to those deemed worthy of it!

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

House and Grounds

It is pleasing to be able to report that the annual lawn renovation will this year comprise 'scarifying, coring, and fertilising' over only a day (*and we have just agreed with the Council that this should be **next Thursday, 20th September***). This will be followed by top-dressing in early January, which will of course put the lawns out for a couple of weeks or more.

We can also report some serious gardening in progress under the olive trees, thank you Evelyn Humpherson! In fact you may notice quite a flurry of activity over the coming months as the growing season gets underway.

With that in mind, it is worth mentioning a proposed Spring 'working bee'. Last year's effort was very productive. This year, we have four major items:

- washing down the outside of the clubhouse;
- painting the last two bench seats;
- weeding the grass areas around each lawn;
- paving the step at the Ernest Street gate.

What are you doing on **Sunday morning 21st October** that could possibly keep you away!



Sydney Premier League

Anyone who can remember further back than today's breakfast will recall the fun which was occasioned by the *Sydney Premier League* competition, held in 2015 and 2016, but missing from last year's calendar.

This is open to players in the Sydney region with the best World Rankings, and has been revived this year for play over six Thursday evenings, starting on 4th October with finals on 15th November. Games will start at 4.30pm and 7.00pm.



The famous Trophy

This another great opportunity to see the game played at a very high level, and to enjoy more of Sue Eldridge-Smith's legendary catering, along with the wit and wisdom customarily engendered by Julian Todd's claret.

September Social Event

It is with regret that we must cancel this event, which we discover had been set down for what is in fact the October long weekend!

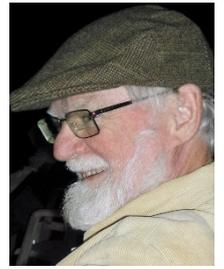
Never mind. We shall introduce new members at the annual **Xmas party and presentation day on Sunday 2nd December**.

Next Year's Committee

Apart from the President, whose three-year term will have ended, all current members have agreed to continue in 2019, so there should be just one spot to be filled. Please give it some thought!!

Fascinating ...

Some time ago, Neil Hardie, who was then State Director of Refereeing, told me of his interest in the use of mobile phone cameras to capture the potentially incriminating moment when a doubtful shot was to be played.



I have to admit that I never followed up on this – being something of a neophyte with such technology. And recent browsing through *Croquet World Online Magazine* only confirms that life is never as simple as we might wish ...

You would know, of course, that according to Law 28, a fault occurs when a player ...

A in a croquet stroke, or continuation stroke when the striker's ball is touching another ball, allows the mallet to contact the striker's ball *visibly* more than once; or ...

C in any stroke, allows the mallet to remain in contact with the striker's ball for an *observable* period.

[Interestingly, I believe the words I have emphasised were specifically inserted in the Laws only about ten years ago.]

And the official commentary defines 'visibly' as meaning "*capable of being seen by someone with normal eyesight standing in a good position to observe the stroke*".

The WCF International Laws Committee has confirmed that "*although technology may show that there were multiple contacts in a croquet stroke, that doesn't necessarily mean a fault was committed*".

It has to be 'visible' or 'observable' to mere mortals, and the fact that a high-speed camera can spot a fault doesn't make it one.

It seems the Laws do allow referees to use "evidence" from other sources if available (and technology has been used very successfully in tournaments in US). But the conclusion is that such evidence is unnecessary. (We just need more lawyers!)

