



Cammeray Croquet Club



November 2022

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

Tournaments

Alan Walsh and Mike Hughes played in the **NSW Open Singles**. Alan won all his games in the block and qualified first for the knockout, while Mike just scraped into the knockout. Mike then beat Alan; then in the semi-final won the first game against the eventual winner, Callum Hyland of Tasmania. Alan won the Z competition.

Rob Elliott entered the **Mosman Prize GC Handicap** event, and just missed out on a place in the knockout – it is always difficult for players with very low handicaps to succeed in such events.

Our last newsletter went to press before the finals of the **Australian Open Singles**, where Malcolm Fletcher and Robert Fletcher had demolished the field. Robert won 26TPO-23, 26-13, 26TP-6.

The **Cammeray Gold Championship** has been played, with Chris Brown winning against David Surridge two games to one.



Chris Brown (L) and David Surridge (R))

The **Cammeray Platinum Championship** final was a best-of-three match, but as Steve Miles had beaten Neil Hardie in the block games, this counted as the first of the three games. Steve only needed one more game to clinch the title 26-9.

Steve Miles



The Cammeray Bronze Championship was won by Malcolm Sheldon with Mary Goldsack as the runner-up. This competition was played as a 26-hoop (non-advanced), unusual for a bronze tournament. Malcolm achieved one peg-out, which was a good effort. There were five entries, which is an encouraging sign – Warren Yates, Kristin Kool-Clarke, Gail Parrott, Malcolm and Mary. Let us hope that even more enter next year!



Malcolm Sheldon



Mary Goldsack

The MacRobertson Shield has been played over the last two weeks. This is the series of test matches between the four main croquet-playing countries – England, Australia, New Zealand and USA. Each country plays each other country in twenty-one matches, consisting of best-of-three games. These are six doubles matches and twelve singles matches. Each team consists of six players. Each day several of the games were live-streamed, and many croquet players were glued to their computer screens. Some of the play was brilliant, but it was also reassuring to see top players make errors. One of the most remarkable sequences was when Malcolm Fletcher (Australia) was playing Paddy Chapman (NZ). Malcolm was on 4-back and peg, Paddy on 1 and 3. Paddy got in and went round to the peg and pegged Malcolm out, then put his own balls in corner four and on the west boundary between hoops 1 and 2. Malcolm had contact, so he took croquet from the ball on the west boundary, rolled from there to 4-back, made 4-back, and then did a 2-ball break to the peg to win.

The playing conditions were difficult; there was a strong gusty wind, and the lawns were very fast, so a shot could easily go several yards further than expected if a gust came at the wrong time. Also, the players had to cope with two or three games per day for fifteen days, with no easy games and great pressure – so it is not surprising that errors were made.

New Zealand were unlucky, losing to both England and Australia by one match. England proved too strong for Australia, who won the shield last time in 2017, and beat them 13-8 in the final test. Robert Fletcher won all his singles matches except the last, retaining his top world ranking.

Twilight croquet



Enjoying food and drink after play in November

One of our most delightful traditions has re-started – the Twilight Croquet on Monday evenings. We play croquet from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., then retire to the clubhouse or the outdoors to have wine and cheese (or whatever other drink and food you fancy). We bring our own wine and food, and have a social time until around 7 p.m. It is very pleasant on hot days. There is always a range of handicaps playing, and it is an opportunity for ambitious players to have a game with a more experienced player. If there are enough people coming, we will probably have some alternate-stroke doubles games, which are a great way for newer players to learn the tactics of the game.

So put your name down on the booking sheet for Monday evenings, and join the fun!

Christmas party

The club Christmas party will be on Sunday 18th December from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., cost \$15 per person. Come and meet all the club members you have not met so far! Partners are welcome. Reply to Mary Goldsack at megoldsack@gmail.com.

Please respond by 11th December – this is the last date for being included!

New Shelves

We have new shelves beside the lawns on the fence by the skateboard park, replacing the old ones which were falling apart. We have Kristin's partner to thank for these.

The Shed

The shed which stores the croquet equipment is back in use – thanks to Alan Walsh who has repaired the door. The damage happened when the door was opened in a strong wind – the wind caught it and snapped it open, bruising one of our members and breaking the hinge. So if there is a wind, be careful in opening the shed, and keep the shed closed except when you are getting things out of it.

Triumph for croquet player

Several of you will know Fleur Brockway, one of Australia's finest croquet players from Western Australia. She played in the Dixon Classic at Cammeray a few years ago. She is a superb mezzo-soprano, and last week she won the Bel Canto Singing Competition, Australia's top singing award. The finals were at the Independent Theatre in North Sydney, and your editor can confirm that her singing there was magnificent. We wish her great success in her career.



Fleuranne Brockway