



# Cammeray Croquet Club



March 2020

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

## Coronavirus

All croquet has been shut down due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is a frustrating period, but there are croquet activities available. We can look at the websites (see below) and watch some great players, or we can study the laws of croquet (a good idea) and consider becoming an umpire (an even better idea). And you can practice your swing at home – set up a couple of tins or blocks of wood just wider than the mallet, and see if you can swing between them consistently without hitting them.

## Recent Tournaments

There has been a wealth of tournaments this month. The highlight was the **Fire Cup** – the series of matches between the Australian States. Each state team consists of four men and four women, and each match comprises four doubles and sixteen singles games – a total of 20 games. Victoria often wins this, but this year NSW had four of the best women in the country in their team: Rosie Landrebe of Cammeray, Alison Sharpe, Alix Verge and Kerry-Ann Organ. The men's team included Alan Walsh of Cammeray. When it came to the last set of matches, Victoria and NSW had won four each, and played each other. If it was a draw, Victoria would win as they had won more games than NSW. NSW were leading 10-7 with three games to play – Victoria had to win all three remaining to win. Simon Watkins beat Alan 24-23 to make it 10-8; then Kevin Beard defeated Stephen Richards 26TP-21 to give 10-9; then at last Alix Verge of NSW beat Elaine Coverdale of Victoria to give us the victory 11-9.



Alan Walsh



Rosie Landrebe



Peter Landrebe

Peter Landrebe was runner-up in the **ACA Gold Medal competition**, winning the silver medal. Each state has one representative, the winner of that state's Bronze Medal competition.

Cammeray was represented in both the **Australian Men's Singles** – with Alan Walsh and Mike Hughes – and in the **Women's Singles** with Barbara McDonald. Alan and Mike both made it to the second round, while Barbara did well in the women's plate with three wins. Mike had a good win against Dwayne McCormick 26-18, but lost the knockout match two games to one (Dwayne went on to reach the semi-final).

In the **5 and under mixed doubles** Alan Walsh and Alison Sharpe were runners up. Barbara McDonald, Peter & Rosie Landrebe and Rob Elliott also competed.

The final of the **Cammeray Handicap Competition** was between Ian Lucas and Georgie Ofner, with Ian the winner.



Ian Lucas and Georgie playing in the final of the club handicap championship

## CROQUET WEBSITES

This newsletter will be providing regular articles on the useful websites relating to croquet.

### **Oxford Croquet** <http://www.oxfordcroquet.com/>

This is the most comprehensive croquet website of all. All players should be familiar with this site. It has guidance for all levels of play, from lessons for beginners up to descriptions of how to do sextuple peels. It explains how to use bisques, the principles of various openings and how to do breaks.

It also has information of the laws of croquet – you can download a set of the laws – and the Officials Rulings of the Laws of Croquet (ORLC) which explains the interpretation of the laws in more detail. There is a wealth of information on refereeing, and sections on care of lawns, selection of mallets and some articles on the history of croquet.

### **Clarke Croquet** <http://clarkecroquet.com/>

This website is run by Chris and Jenny Clarke of New Zealand. Chris Clarke was twice world champion, while Jenny is the top-ranked woman in croquet (currently ranked 15 overall). You need to register to access the contents, but it is free.

It provides lessons on all the relevant shots, with videos and instructions; plus how to deal with poor form, psychology and much else. If you are having difficulty with stop shots, rolls or any other kind of shot, watch the videos of Chris Clarke playing them and you should improve.

**Livestream:** This provides videos of various sports. Search for 'LiveStream' and set up a free account; then search for 'croquet' on the website. Once you have set up the account, you can go direct to specific events: <https://livestream.com/accounts/2687950/events/8995783> the 2020 world AC championship from quarterfinals onwards, with excellent commentary by Garth Denyer and Peter Landrebe – 27 hours of coverage. <https://livestream.com/accounts/2687950/events/8619338/videos/190533254> the 2019 Trans-Tasman (Australia vs NZ) Golf Croquet Test Match. (Livestream does not seem to work on iPads).

At a time when we can't play croquet, we can watch top players and learn from their approach. It is particularly instructive to see how Reg Bamford – who won the AC worlds – takes his time over each shot, but without wasting time. The commentaries on both the AC and golf offer a great insight into tactics for both games.

*If you know of any interesting croquet website, let me know at [nhardie@ozemail.com.au](mailto:nhardie@ozemail.com.au) so it can be included in the newsletter at some stage.*