



Cammeray Croquet Club

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

May Newsletter

Club News

Club Hat Badges

These are now available for \$15. Email secretary @ cammeray-croquet .org.au if you would like to order one.



Review of the playing program

A review being undertaken by the Committee into the 'Weekly Programme of Play', *i.e.* the various sessions which are offered to members each week. There is a feeling that we have acquired several new members, and that both the lower handicap range (on Monday and Wednesday mornings, and now Thursday, as well), and the higher handicap range (say Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday afternoons) may need to be added to.

At the same time, we could well have more 'Beginner Transition' sessions, for which Hi-Lo doubles games have proved very useful and popular, or simple 'supervised' games, which I see already in progress on some Tuesday afternoons.

Members are invited to think about it, and make their thoughts known to the Committee.

Social Day

We have another Social Event coming up on Sunday afternoon, 29 th June. This will involve both an introduction to Golf Croquet for those who may like to give it a try, starting at 2 p.m., for which we have to thank the co-operation of the regular Sunday afternoon GC players, and will be followed at 4.00pm by another of Julian Todd's well known wine tastings (to be held in the Clubhouse).

Our own 'street' Library

You can recycle books that you have enjoyed in our Club Library. It is on the bookshelf nearest the entrance to the bathroom. Feel free to take any books you find there that appeal. Graham Maynard has kindly agreed to care of it.

Vale Elaine Goggin

Elaine Goggin died on 29th March at the age of 100. Elaine made a great contribution to croquet; she was president of Croquet NSW, and was president of Manly Croquet Club. She was a member of Cammeray for several years in her later life. She was an examining referee and an active coach.

Tournaments

CNSW Silver Singles at Cammeray

This was due to be played in late April, with an excellent entry of eight players. Sadly the rain intervened; on Sunday there was heavy overnight rain and the lawns were flooded in the morning. David Stanton then revised the draw so that there were five sessions on the Monday, starting at 8 a.m. and finishing under lights in the evening. But it rained heavily on Sunday night; David went down to the club at 6.30 a.m. on Monday morning to find the lawns flooded again, so he had little choice but to call off the whole tournament, to be re-scheduled later.



The lawns on Monday afternoon

NSW Beryl Chambers State Handicap – Metro qualifying

This was a closely-fought contest; four of the entrants finished with three wins out of five games. Robert Barrie was one of these, but he missed out on qualifying for the final on a hoop-count.

CNSW Women's Singles



Alison in the Women's Singles

Alison Sharpe was in sparkling form for this; she won all her games, generally finishing in around an hour. She had 190 net hoops – her opponents only managed an average of two hoops each.

Second and third was an interesting battle. Both Rosie Landrebe and Jo Bown won their first five games so second place was decided by games between Alison, Jo, Rosie and Di Scott.

Jo surprisingly beat Rosie, and then only had to win against Di to get second place; but Di won that game, so Rosie came second on hoop countback with Jo third.

Cammeray Bronze Championship

The Cammeray Bronze tournament is still in progress. The leading players are Margaret Barrie, Kristin Kool-Clarke and Malcolm Sheldon. The final will probably be played between Margaret and Malcolm.

CNSW Men's Singles

This was won by Greg Fletcher who beat Trevor Bassett in the final. Mike Hughes came third.

Advice for high-handicap players (3) by Neil Hardie

Keeping A Break Going

The main difference between good croquet players and less successful ones is that once the good player has set up the lawn, they can keep the break going until they decide to stop. The poor player breaks down after a couple of hoops even after a good set-up of the lawn.

There are two main areas where the beginner breaks down: one is that they fail to make a hoop; and the other is that they miss an easy shot (such as a three-yard roquet). A further cause is simply playing a very poor shot – bevelling an attempted roquet, messing up a roll. For this you need extra practice, and more concentration. An additional way of breaking down is hitting a ball into a hoop or the peg. Careful players try to put their balls in a position where they do not have to aim near a hoop or peg. If you do find a hoop or peg in the way, aim well to one side – it is better to be a couple of yards from the ideal position than nestled up against the peg.

Failing to make a hoop occurs in various ways. One is that faced with a simple hoop run – in front of the hoop and a couple of feet out – they blob in the hoop. This is often the result of not stalking, and not focusing on the striker's ball when playing the shot (lifting your head!).

Another reason is that they have failed to get close to the hoop before they play the hoop approach, and need to do a long roll to get position to run the hoop – and this usually fails. The solution to this is to take great care in placing the pioneer. Most beginners will just whack the croquet ball up somewhere near the hoop plus one. Good players recognize that this shot is the most critical in the break, and take great care to place the pioneer as close as possible to the hoop. If you can get the pioneers close to the hoop, the game becomes quite easy!

The third way of failing a hoop is to do a poor hoop approach. This is sometimes due to poor direction – not estimating the angles properly; but more often due to over-running the hoop. This is because beginners love to approach the hoop with a roll. Rolls are difficult to control, whereas a simple drive is much easier. So wherever possible, use a drive to approach the hoop and not a roll. If you are within three yards of a hoop, it is probably better to play a drive and not a roll.

Good croquet does not arise from brilliant shots – it comes from simple shots played accurately. In most circumstances, a series of simple shots played accurately will remove the need for any difficult shots.

This is the last of this series of coaching notes. If you are interested in getting more at a later date, please contact me at nhardie@ozemail.com.au



Our garden is looking very attractive these days – our thanks to those members who look after it