



Cammeray Croquet Club

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April Newsletter

NSW Wins Eire Cup!

Alison Sharpe wins Australian Women's Singles
James Carlisle wins 'Y' at Australian Men's Singles

A report by James Carlisle



The NSW Team for the Eire Cup



The Eire Cup

The annual croquet jamboree that includes the ACA Gold and Silver Medals, the Men's and Women's Championships and the Interstate Trophy (aka the Eire Cup) took place from 8-19 April in Perth. Cammeray members James Carlisle and Alison Sharpe competed in the Men's and Women's and were then joined by Liz Montague and Rosemary Landrebe for the Eire Cup. Former member Joanne Brown, now based in Wagga Wagga, also played throughout.

Things got off to a positive start for NSW, with our representative Trevor Bassett winning the Gold Medal, with 8 wins out of 10, including 5 triple peels.

Alison Sharpe produced an even more dominant display by winning the Women's Championship without dropping a single game, pegging out in all 10 of her wins and scoring 260 points while conceding only 69.

Joanne Brown reached the quarter-finals, where she fell to Victoria's Kerri-Ann Organ, but went on to be runner-up in the Z (thereby finishing 6th overall) after an epic victory over Queensland's Yuni Rowell: 21-20, 16-19, 12-11.

James Carlisle was edged out in the second round of the Men's by SA's Tim O'Leary, after winning game 1 and sticking in penult in game 2 with his other clip on the peg. But he made the best of it by winning the Y (thereby finishing 9th overall), beating Trevor Bassett in the final, with a sixth turn triple peel to take the second game 26TP-0.

Fellow New South Welshmen Mike Gidding and Stephen Pearce both reached the quarters, losing respectively to Victoria's Greg Hill and Stephen Forster (the eventual winner). Mike then beat Stephen in the final of the Z, 17-19, 26-10, 26-0 (so that they finished 5th and 6th overall).



Alison Sharpe



James Carlisle



Rosie Landrebe



Jo Brown

(we don't have a photo of Liz Montague)

The Eire Cup then began with a commanding 14-6 win over South Australia at Nedlands, with Liz Montague a highlight in the doubles, producing a 9-point three-ball break to peg out herself and partner James Carlisle.

That win and two more in the singles enabled James to claim 3 from 3 on his first appearance in the Eire Cup. Rosie Landrebe achieved the same feat, although it was her 26th appearance.

The NSW women took the lead on the second day, against Western Australia at Como, with 7 out of 8 wins in their singles. Wins from Alison and Trevor and James and Liz in the doubles (the latter by 15-14, despite a 1 point deficit as time was called), and 4 from the men in their singles completed a solid 13-7 victory. Shot of the day went to Trevor who, at the beginning of his triple peel against Ian Dumergue, ran a tight hoop 2 so hard that his mallet, as it followed through, took the hoop clean out of the ground.

The team was again at Como on day 3, for a stiff test against a strong Queensland side. The score was locked at 2-2 after the doubles, after wins for Rosie and Mike and Trevor and Alison (over Queensland's strong top pairing of Shane Davis and Yuni Rowell). NSW then moved to an 8-4 lead after the first round of singles, with Trevor and captain Stephen Pearce producing triple peels to win their games and Rosie securing an impressive 26-11 win over Yuni Rowell.

The second round of singles proved more difficult, however, although wins from James and Mike and another triple peel from Stephen eventually brought it home 11-9.

Day 4 saw a move to Cambridge, where the team secured a 17-3 victory over Tasmania, with wins in every game that didn't feature the Tasmanian captain Callum Hyland.

On the final day, again at Cambridge, NSW took on the holders Victoria, also undefeated, to decide the winner. The day didn't get off to a good start as Victoria took out a 3-1 lead following the doubles. Trevor and Alison secured NSW's sole victory (with a triple peel by Trevor), although James and Liz came close against Greg Hill and Tricia Devlin. Greg made an early break to 4-back and James came within a whisker of pegging him out – prioritising peels and achieving 2 of them before breaking down at 2-back on his first go, and then, on the second attempt, sticking in penult with the final single peel laid out in front of him. With a 2-point deficit as time was called and James still on penult, he hit a 12-yarder to about 5 yards south-west of the hoop, but his take-off for position was long and he failed a difficult hoop.

The team made a better showing in the first round of singles, with wins to Trevor (26TP-18 over Men's champion Stephen Forster), Stephen (26-10 over Felix Gelman-White), Rosie (26-6 over Claire Bassett), Alison (26-11 over Kerri-Ann Organ) and Joanne (21-9 over Tricia Devlin) levelling the scores at 6-6. It could have been even better, with Liz taking a ball round to 3-back on the fourth turn of her game, after Lois Kirk (winner of the Women's Z) had opened with a 'supershot'.

And so it came down to the final round of singles. Alison, Mike and James got things off to a great start, getting NSW to a 9-6 lead with emphatic wins over Claire Bassett (26-11), Felix Gelman-White (26-6) and Stephen Forster (26-0) respectively. Those net hoops were looking very handy, with Victoria pegging the game score back to 9-8 with wins from Greg Hill and Kerri-Ann Organ, but Liz looking set to make it at least 10-10 with a commanding lead over Tricia Devlin.

Stephen Pearce was ahead in another of the remaining 3 matches, in a break with his other clip on the peg, and with his opponent Lachlan Berryman on 6 and 4-back. He got hampered after 4-back, though, enabling Lachlan to take the hoop 6 ball to the peg as time was called, needing to peg it out or peel 4-back to level the scores, or both to take a lead. The peel didn't quite work before or after 4-back, leaving it a few inches in front of the hoop, so he returned after rover and attempted a rush peel, which would have enabled him to clear it from baulk and peg out his ball to take a lead. But the peelee got stuck in the hoop, leaving him able to peel it, or take-off close to the peg, but not both. In the end he opted to make the peel and leave himself about a 12-yard shot at the peg, which he missed into corner 4, giving Stephen a short double from B-baulk which he hit before taking off and hitting the peg to secure a 23-22 victory and the Eire Cup.

All this would have been torture for his watching teammates, were it not for the redoubtable Liz Montague on the next-door lawn, who was calmly (on the outside at least) progressing to a 17-6 win over Tricia Devlin, to make the final score 11-9.

So NSW came good when the pressure was on, with everyone in the team making important contributions, and the Eire Cup is on its way back to NSW!

Elsewhere on the final day, Tasmania notched up a surprise 13-7 win over Western Australia to place fifth, with WA sixth, while Queensland beat South Australia by 16 net hoops to finish third.

Cammeray Beginners Tournament

There were six entries for this. It was played with experienced mentors helping the players with their game so it was a useful learning experience. There were some promising beginners who should progress quickly.

Robert Speare won all his games and pegged out two of them. Rose Webb came second with four wins out of five, and Steve Darwell came third.



Robert Speare



Rose Webb



**Steve Darwell with mentor
Michael Strickland**



Alan Jackman



Anne Gray



Suzanne Lulham

Many thanks to Rob Barrie who organised the tournament, and to the mentors and referees who helped.

CNSW Silver Doubles

This was held at Cammeray on 18-19th April. Margaret O'Brien and Bronwyn McGrane did not do too well in the block play, but then won their semi-final, and then beat the pair – Kathy Maloney and Linda Nickels – who had won all their block games to take the prize.



Bronwyn and Margaret with David Stanton, who refereed the final

Magic? Not really!

At a recent Saturday afternoon bronze session Warren Yates managed to get a ball to stick half way up a hoop, to the surprise and amusement of everyone around. He was attempting to peel his balls through 1 back. After his croquet shot, the blue ball was in the hoop with black just behind it. On his continuation shot, Warren, being aware of the double tap risk, struck the black ball near the top to impart spin to ensure it would continue through the hoop. When the black ball hit the blue ball, it bounced up into the hoop and stuck there!



The position before the shot



The result



Close-up

Beware the length of the new clips! They stick out quite a bit – enough to hold a ball in place! This was a bronze game with the hoops on their widest setting.

The law which applies to this situation is interesting. Law 38 says that if a ball is in contact with both uprights of the hoop, the hoop must be adjusted and they are permitted to replay the shot. However, the law also says that if the ball strikes a clip there is no remedy. So move the clips if they may interfere with your shot!

Media Coverage

There has been some good coverage of croquet recently in the media. In the Sydney Morning Herald of 11th April the Fitz Files had a section on the skills of Alison Sharpe, and on the ABC news website of 18th April there was a long article on the growth of croquet in Port Lincoln.

New Members' Morning

We encourage all members to come along to the New Members Morning— 10.00am on Sunday 31st May — fun and games, morning tea, and a chance for new members to meet 'longer-standing' members, and *vice versa!*