



July 2013

This month in Croquet Matters

This month we preview the 2013 WCF Association Croquet World Championships and look at our kiwi competitors. We've got some news from around the associations, and in the coaching corner we check out one of the most useful cannons in association croquet.

From the Exec

An Executive meeting was held on the 20th July.

It was agreed that the first Golf Croquet Trans Tasman would be played in Nelson (currently scheduled for late 2015 - probably November).

There was considerable discussion about marketing croquet. Bill Dyall has had some discussions with marketing students at AUT around the redesign and branding of the green prescription flyer. He intends this to be a project that students would do as part of their practical requirements, and might lead to further collaboration in the future.

The Executive also talked about "more people playing better croquet more often" and the fact this didn't just mean more (traditional) club membership. We want to focus more on all opportunities for people to play croquet, and how it was paid for.

This led on to discussion about how we can attract potential participants to croquet. What are the best ways to show off the sport - given

our limited financial resources - and attract new participants? Bill spoke about how huge sums of money could be spent on TV marketing campaigns with no guarantee of success (given his business experience). Phillip Drew spoke about the success his employer has had with generating enquires from a branded vehicle. The question was raised - Would Croquet benefit from having a mobile billboard? Phillip will provide some information shortly so this topic can be discussed by associations prior to the AGM (we would like delegates to the AGM to come with specific comments, questions and thoughts from their association).

The Executive members noted that they had received feedback from members in their region that they weren't sure what Croquet New Zealand does and has achieved. This will be addressed at the AGM (and hopefully here in Croquet Matters too!!!).

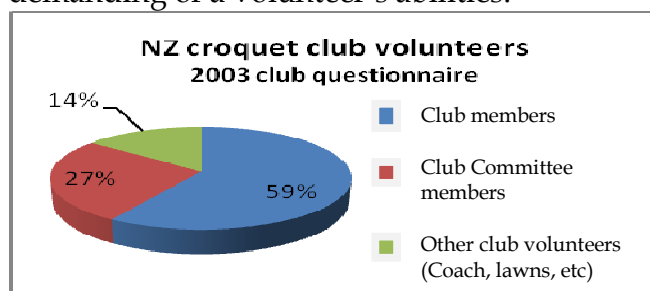
The Executive would like all AGM delegates to be prepared to provide a quick update of the successes seen in their region over the last 12 months. Let's celebrate the successes and learn from each other.

The whole Executive congratulated the Sport Development Officer on his work developing a secondary school programme and organising the Junior Youth Squad. A group of almost twenty young people will head to Christchurch in October for three days of coaching and two days playing in the Gold & Silver Stars CNZ tournament. The enthusiasm of the students is amazing!

Brian Monckton continues to do excellent work leading the AC laws committee. Most of the current work has been liaising with Australia on mutual recognition of umpire/referee qualifications. Interestingly, Australia does not have a re-qualifying examination, but referees are required to keep and maintain an activity log of their refereeing (including where and what capacity they officiated in, courses attended and even areas which are deemed to require attention). The AC laws committee has undertaken some preliminary discussions about including questions about hoop-setting into the examinations, or adding the responsibility for ensuring appropriate training is given to referees by Association referees.

Sport Development Officer – Early season planning

Congratulations to all new and returning club and association committees. An outstanding 40% of NZ's club members generously fulfil volunteer roles and your essential contribution to the sport is very highly valued. All of our volunteers are regarded as *valuable* or *very valuable* (4 and 5 on a scale of 1-5, 2013 Club Questionnaire) The questionnaire tells us that 1/3 of clubs do not fill all volunteer positions easily or that knowledge or skills are unavailable in topics that become increasingly specialized or demanding of a volunteer's abilities.



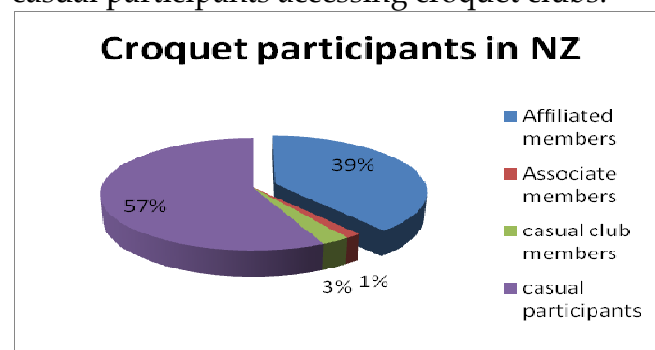
<http://www.volunteeringnz.org.nz/> is an excellent site for information to assist and support volunteers. Association Committees can access their nearest Regional Sports Trust (RST) for information, courses and workshops

to provide learning in volunteer roles. A list of all RST's is available on the Sport NZ website; <http://www.sportnz.org.nz/en-nz/our-partners/Regional-Sports-Trusts/List-of-all-RSTs/>

Club and Association committee members can run through the Sport NZ club checklist in preparation for the new season at <http://www.sportnz.org.nz/communities-and-clubs/Toolkit-for-Clubs/Checklists/>

With a foot in the air for the last month after a bit of remodelling, I have been crunching Club Questionnaire numbers which will be presented with recommendations at the CNZ AGM. There's plenty to crunch; an excellent response from 79 clubs is providing reliable and very useful information for CNZ to respond to and plan for in the future.

Murray and the Executive are discussing those that participate in croquet are not necessarily club members. This quickie from the questionnaire emphasises the growing trend of casual participants accessing croquet clubs.



This reflects what is being experienced in many sports codes and what is often reported by Sport NZ as the changing face of sport where casual and pay-for-play options are becoming the dominant way New Zealanders are accessing sport. Croquet is no exception; the experience we are providing this sector and how clubs can take full advantage deserves some attention.

I would appreciate hearing of any news, feedback on this article, or developments taking place, and if any assistance is required, please ask. I can be contacted at the CNZ office by email, admin@croquet.org.nz or by phone (04) 916 0258.

Coaching Corner – How to play: Corner 1 Cannons (AC)



When played well, croquet cannons provide devastatingly good opportunities to establish at a three ball break (or better) with a single stroke.

What is a cannon? A croquet stroke where 3 or 4 balls are in contact.

In this article we will discuss a 3-ball cannon played from corner 1, where you have rushed a ball off the lawn into the corner area with another ball already sitting in corner 1. A common opportunity to get a corner 1 cannon is from a standard opening when several of those opening shots have been missed.

How do I get this cannon? While you have the opportunity to play a cannon when you start a turn with 3 balls in contact, you can also get a cannon during a turn when you rush a ball out

behind a yard or corner ball. In our example, you are playing Yellow, and have rushed Black off into the corner 1 area, with Red already in corner 1.

What goes where? First, you need to place Black back on the lawn in a legal position, that is, on either yardline in contact with Red. Now you remove the Red (it is now a 'ball in hand' and can place it anywhere in contact with the roqueted ball, Black. The striker's ball is now also placed in contact with Black – the only restriction being that both balls must touch Black, but neither ball may touch each other.

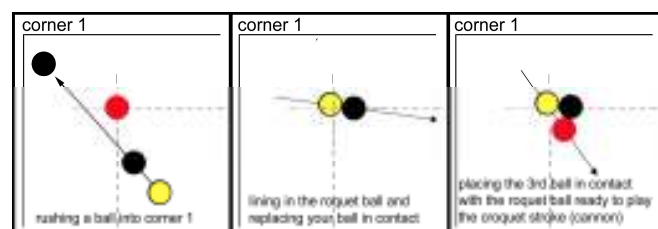


Diagram 1

How do I line up the balls?

Line up Yellow and the black ball, so that the line through the balls points about 3 feet west of hoop 2. This allows for some left-to-right "pull" which happens in most croquet strokes.

Now place the 3rd ball (R) in contact with the roqueted ball (Bk), so that the line through (R) and the strikers ball points directly at hoop 5. This line will create a **right angle** with the line to between the first two balls.

Where do I aim? The correct aiming point is somewhere between hoop 5 and hoop 6, but with most modern mallets best results come from aiming between the peg and hoop 6. If you have a very light mallet, the best aiming point could be between the peg and hoop 5.

The optimal aiming point depends very much on the weight of your mallet, so this needs a little experimentation.

What type and strength of stroke do I play?

This is the lovely aspect of a corner 1 cannon. For pretty much all mallet weights and grip types, you can simply use your normal shooting grip and stance, and play a firm drive stroke. Some people with heavier mallets tend somewhere between stop shot and a drive. Play the stroke hard enough to send the croqueted ball to hoop 2.

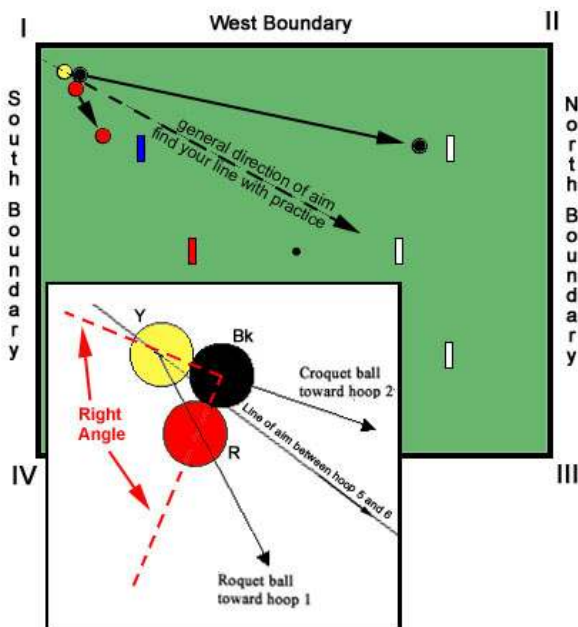


Diagram 2

What's going to happen when I strike my ball?

In a successful cannon, as soon as you make contact with your striker's ball the croqueted ball will head towards hoop2 and your striker's ball will then *roquet* the third ball in the same stroke, rushing it towards hoop 1.

^ If the croqueted ball goes out, it is end of turn (a cannon is a type of croquet stroke), but it doesn't matter if the striker's ball goes out, as it has made a roquet.

- It is not a fault if you make a second contact with your striker's ball during the shot as it will have occurred as a consequence of roqueting a live ball. See Law 28(a)(8).

You can now approach hoop 1 off Red, you have a pioneer at hoop 2, and have a 3 ball break awaiting you.

Practice: The corner 1 is a great way to start a practice break – whether a 3-ball break, or a 4-ball break with the pivot ball already placed ready at the peg. Since this cannon can be used also in corner 3, and other cannons can be manufactured by changing the angles and aiming points and the type of stroke played, it is a really good cannon to master.

Next month: The Wafer Cannon, and the Non-Cannon (because Worm/Banana cannons are BAD).

Further reading:

<http://www.oxfordcroquet.com/coach/cannons/>

The World of Croquet: John McCullough, Stephen Mulliner



Coming events...



The 2013 World Croquet Federation Association Croquet World Championships, London, 10-18 August

The 14th World Croquet Federation Association Croquet World Championship kicks off on Sunday 10th August, and with nine players representing New Zealand, we present a preview of the event.

What and where: The World Champs runs from 10-18th August in London, England. Headquarters is the 7-lawn Surbiton croquet club. Famed for its fast lawns, rock-hard hoops and good beer, this is one of the strongest croquet clubs in the UK. Other venues are Hurlingham, Roehampton and Woking (all private member's clubs).

Can I follow the results?: The event website is: <http://www.acwc2013.org>, and results will be updated on this site, and also probably on the international results site: <http://www.croquetcores.com>.

Will a kiwi win in 2013?: Well.... it would be wonderful, however NZ hasn't put out a full strength team this year due mainly to the cost of transport to, and accommodation in, England. Nottingham-based kiwi #1 Paddy Chapman is our best hope, but has some personal distractions off the lawn (more on this in the next issue of Croquet Matters), and the rest of the squad are playing out of season and many with limited preparation. History shows that local players tend to shine, and there are a *lot* of local players in this tournament which is

taking place in the middle of their season. Quite a few of the kiwis in England this time around are relatively new to international play, and this tournament will provide a massive contribution to their future croquet achievements. Never the less, kiwis fight, and we will be doing our best to bring home a 2013 world champs medal.

Previewing the kiwis: Let's take a quick look at the prospects of our 9 kiwi competitors in the 2013 world championships:



Paddy Chapman, 2010 NZ Open champion, and winner of the Bowdon Advanced weekend in Manchester, UK (June 2013)

Top kiwi, and world number 6, Paddy Chapman suffered a disappointing 1st round exit in 2012 worlds in Adelaide. He bounced back, running a close second to Robert Fulford in September 2012 President's cup (UK top 8). Paddy is currently based in the UK and will have look to this event to kick off his MacRobertson Shield preparation, with an added drive to avenge two match losses to young Aussie number 1 Robert Fletcher. Jenny Clarke is the current women's AC world champion. Jenny has played in three open AC world championships, and has reached further into the event each time - this year's goal is the Quarterfinals.

Aiken Hakes is fulfilling a croquet dream of competing in England. The kiwirail sponsored player has been using artificial cricket practice surfaces for off-season shooting practice. Aiken won the very strong 2012 Wellington Open championship last year, and if he can keep his nerve he has a strong chance to trouble the top seeds in this tournament.

CNZs 2012 Most Improved Player, Mike Crashley, has been focussing mainly on GC in recent months, and will need to find some form quickly to make his first world championship appearance in the knockout. Dennis Bulloch has won a GC silver medal and an AC bronze medal in England already, and has huge international experience. Despite a warm-up in the recent British Open championships, recent results don't favour Dennis making the knockout stages of this tournament.

World #39 Steve Jones has had a stellar start to 2013, winning 42 out of 48 games, although many of these wins were over relatively weak opponents. Steve is a very capable and experienced player who is capable of tripling, and has mixed results in his TPO experiments. With a high world ranking, Steve will also be favoured by a good draw for this event.

Harps Tahurangi announced his presence in world croquet in 2012 by knocking Stephen Mulliner out of the World Championships! He'll need to pick up his form after an indifferent end to the 2012/2013 season, but with a very aggressive tactical style he is always a dangerous and exciting player to watch. Rounding out the kiwi challenge, Brian Bullen and Peter Filbee will be playing their first competitive games outside New Zealand and will be looking to enjoy the experience of playing in a major international tournament

and hoping to pick up some prized scalps along the way.

Best of the foreigners: This is a *massive* tournament for the Brits – the English MacRobertson Shield test team will be announced shortly after the world championships. Robert Fulford is a certainty for the team. Provided his knee injury doesn't hamper him, Rutger Beijderwellen should make a return to the team, and NZ Open doubles champion (with kiwi Michael Wright) Mark Avery is hard leave out. That leaves such croquet stars as David Maugham, England captain Keith Aiton and Stephen Mulliner fighting for places with young stars Jamie Burch (world #7), sextupling talent James Death and 2013 British Open runner up Samir Patel battling for places.

For the Aussies, discarded Australian captain and undefeated 2013 Trans Tasman player Kevin Beard will be looking to build on his British Open doubles success, Malcom Fletcher will be desperate for some form and top Australian, and current world #1, Robert Fletcher will be looking for gold. Aussie Number 2.

Finally, it would be almost unthinkable to have a world championship final without South African Reg Bamford, who is current AC and GC world champion, and has just won his 9th British Open Championship.



Reg Bamford, double world champion, with the Wimbledon Cup. The cup was first won by inaugural world champion Joe Hogan of New Zealand.

Steve Jones Wins Cheltenham Croquet Challenge Cup (7-8 July)

Thirty-four years after first getting his name on the honours boards at Cheltenham Croquet Club in England, Steve Jones has done it again! On a weekend of notable British sporting successes - Andy Murray won Wimbledon, the British Lions won the series in Australia, and Daniel Martin won a stage of the Tour de France - it was a New Zealander that won the 3-day A-class event at Cheltenham. Steve went through the tournament unbeaten to win the trophy, an enormous silver cup (bigger than Andy Murray's one!).

The first winner of the event was T.K.Ashton in 1905 and since then, the list of winners resembles a who's who of British Croquet including Miss D.D.Steel, Susan Wiggins, Humphrey Hicks, John Solomon, Lt.Col.D.M.C.Pritchard, Keith Wylie, Paul Hands, Andrew Hope, Martin Murray, Chris Clarke, and Bernard Neal. Steve himself played in the tournament in 1980, recording his first ever triple peel.

Perfect weather saw all 10 lawns in use and some excellent play as the Brits emerged from their long winter and cold spring. A highlight was seeing Paul Hands play again, recovering after a long illness. Bernard and Liz Neal put in a welcome appearance too if only for afternoon tea. Of the youngsters, Nick Parish and Joel Rogers impressed, the latter in his first season of tournament play.

CROQUET AROUND THE ASSOCIATIONS

TARTAN GOLF CROQUET TOURNAMENT AT WAIPU

Waipu Croquet Club doesn't close its lawns for winter. On the 22nd June the Club took a chance with the weather for its first-ever Tartan Golf Croquet Tournament. This event saw the start of many activities in the small Northland town celebrating its Scottish Heritage. A wide range of events were organised involving tartan clothing and Scottish food and drink. These ranged from Tarts in Tartan Netball, Men in Kilts Rugby and Whisky Tasting at the old Waipu Jail.

The Croquet Club's tournament had entrants from all over Northland, dressed in many forms of tartan. These ranged from one man in full highland dress to a Whangarei member in pyjamas. There were so many entries all the lawns were half-size, with two games being played on each. The screams of delight when an opposition ball was knocked clear of a hoop, or when a hoop was made were typical of the fun players have in Golf Croquet.

At the end of play prizes were awarded to Ian Faulkner (Kerikeri) for most hoops, Flo Osborne (Kensington) Runner-up, Lois Wilkinson (Kerikeri), Trisha McGowan (Whangarei) and John Christmas (Kensington) - equal third. Beryl Burton (Kensington) won a prize for best score on a high handicap.

Spot prizes were awarded in several categories. Patricia Macpherson (Kaitaia) won for travelling the furthest. Best uniform (male) was Neville Miller (Kerikeri) - the only one with a proper sporran; Best uniform (female)

Lorraine Lowen (Whangarei); Sue McLeod (Kerikeri) wearing McLeod tartan trousers; Des Heath (Waipu) – resplendent in tartan but had the best legs. Four members of Whangarei Club received spot prizes - Jan King- Tartan Christmas Fairy; Eric Manning – for his innovative tartan beret with red hair; John Marsh - Antarctic Tartan (he came dressed in summer whites); and Trevor McCreedy, the man who played in tartan pyjamas.

As well as organising a brilliant tournament, the Waipu members had a great trading table with tea towels and bookmarks in the new Waipu tartan, shortbread and other edibles. Scotch Broth was on the menu for lunch and Haggis Quiche as part of afternoon tea. The two dedicated ladies who sorted out entrants into teams, and allocated lawns and balls, were Club Captain Jean Tafa (a descendant of one of the original Waipu Scottish settlers) and Golf Croquet Silver Badge Primary winner Jean Kent.

by Margaret Manning, Northland Croquet Publicity Officer



Geoff Young made Life Member of the Thames Valley Association



Geoff is a well known figure in the TVCA and also around NZ. Originally from Te Puke, Geoff moved with his family to farm at Kereone. Geoff is a keen sportsman; golf, tennis, badminton and of course croquet.

Geoff started playing Association Croquet in 1984, progressing rapidly through the grades, and is now a -1.5. In the late 1990's Geoff started playing Golf Croquet, and is now a 0.

In 1987 Geoff was elected onto the TVCA Committee and has served for the Valley ever since – 26 years. During this time he was

- 2nd VP for TV Association in 1987
- 1st VP in 1988 and 1989
- President from 1990 to 1992
- Treasurer of the TV Association from 2001-6
- Thames Valley Handicapper since 2009 and the Events Co-ordinator since 2011
- TVCA Referee from February 2012

In 1988 Geoff started the Kereone Croquet Club. He has been the Treasurer of the Morrinsville Croquet Club from 1991 to 2002. He has been the Patron of the Morrinsville Club for 8 years.

Geoff spent 12 years with NZCC being co-opted to the Finance Committee and then elected to Council, and President from 1997-99.

Geoff has managed National and International Tournaments, including the MacRobertson Shield series in Christchurch in 2000 and the GC Women's Worlds in 2011 at Mt Maunganui. Geoff was on the CNZ selection committee for GC for a number of years.

New croquet club in Te Anau



On the 8th November 2006, Mrs Edith Gray called a meeting in Te Anau to test the level of interest in croquet. In the following months, a club was formed, officers were elected, subs were set, equipment was provided by the Southland Croquet Association and play commenced on a plot of land provided by the Te Anau Club Inc.

In September 2009 a site for the fledging club was confirmed, and construction began. Re-leveling and sowing was required, extended construction time to late 2011. In the meantime, considerable fundraising and grant applications, fencing and an extension to the

rugby club pavilion for storage was done and play continued at Douglas Fowle's property.

5 years after it all begun, Edith Gray cut the ribbon and hit the first ball at the Te Anau Croquet Club's official opening on the 1st October 2011.

The Te Anau Croquet Club is a member of the Southland Croquet Association and is the latest affiliation to CNZ. Congratulations to the club and all those involved from conception to fruition. As the Secretary Isobel Jennings says, "with the view we have from the croquet lawn: the mountains, boat harbour, lake, trees in the park, and the rugby club pavilion, I bet we have the best - placed croquet lawn anywhere"



Midwinter tournaments are held each year at Marewa Croquet Club in Napier

The next are 10 & 11 August for Golf Croquet - level doubles on Saturday and handicap singles on Sunday; AC will be singles played 24 & 25 August. AHS cards will be used for all events.

Weather - ah yes. This is the time of year when for almost all day your shadow is longer than you are tall. So we aim to finish between 3 and 4pm before your shadow disappears into the distance forever. But be prepared, as always, for the faint possibility that there will be rain.

Entries to Box 354, Napier 4140 or to lester.obrien@paradise.net.nz or telephone Lester O'Brien - 06 844 8252 or 021 0242 1775

Next Edition of Croquet Matters

1. Croquet on the web (delayed from July)
2. Coaches corner – the wafer cannon and the non-cannon
3. Hoop running – mental training
4. How we fared in the WCF AC World Champs
5. Preview of early some early season tournaments and events.

We welcome your news!

Please send in your match reports, letters and other information which may be published in Croquet Matters newsletter.

Croquet Matters was prepared by the Executive Director and Sport Development Officer with considerable voluntary contribution from Jenny Clarke.