



November 2013

This month in Croquet Matters

This month John Prince previews the upcoming MacRobertson Shield, along with an introduction to the New Zealand team. We also provide some important tips on repairing mallet indentations in lawns and report on the 6th MAGAK event. The Coaches' corner provides a refresher on how to play effective full rolls.

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New Golf Croquet referees

Ngaire McKenzie - Forbury Park Club
Mervyn Garthwaite - Leith Club
Dave Hunt - Plimmerton Club
Paul Skinley - Wellington Club

CNZ Merit Award Winners this month

Platinum Merit Award:

Chris Clarke (Canterbury)

Gold Merit Award:

Geoff Duckett (Canterbury),
Mike Crashley (Hawkes Bay) from 2012

Silver Merit Award:

Graeme Fisher (Wellington)

Bronze Merit Award:

Sue Roberts (Bay Of Plenty)

See later in the newsletter how to achieve these awards

From the Exec

The Executive met on Sunday 24th November.

The priorities of the meeting were to finalise the committee convenors, the composition of each committee and a work programme for each committee.

The Tournament committee for 2013/14 will be Lester O'Brien (convenor), Greg Bryant, Phillip Drew, Annie Henry, Pam Fisher, Dallas Cooke, Brian Boutel and Ann Sharp. The business of the tournament committee is largely focussed on reviewing the current Croquet NZ tournament programme, planning for the upcoming season and updating regulations around tournaments. The tournament committee will be discussing the objectives of each tournament on the programme. They plan to contemplate the possible introduction of GC events to mirror the AC Arthur Ross and the AC women's invitation. Of course there is also the GC handicap split for the GC Silver Badges to consider (as agreed at the recent AGM).

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee will be Baubre Murray (Convenor), Dallas Cooke and the Executive Director. The focus will be on developing alternative revenue streams. Other work on the table is largely routine - (the annual budget process, finalising the financial statements and monitoring the actual vs budget throughout the year).

The Player Development Committee will be led by Phillip Drew along with the Executive Director, the Sport Development Officer, the Heads of the AC and GC Selection panels and Jarrod Coutts. There is work to do on providing resources for coaching, and coaching/testing coaches. There is also another round of nationwide coaching sessions that are being planned for the start of the 2014/15 season.

The Laws and Rules Committees will be headed up by new Executive member Brian Boutel. This committee has two main focuses: the AC Laws and the GC Rules. On the AC side Brian will work with Brian Monckton, Graeme Roberts, Vince Neall, Nairn Smith and Lester O'Brien, whilst on the GC side Brian will work with Gordon Smith, Lester O'Brien, Dallas Cooke and Geoff Young. The focus of these committees will be on providing resources and training aids for clubs/referees/umpires etc.

Lastly, the Organisation Development Committee: It will be led by Annie Henry and the committee will comprise Dallas Cooke, Marion Prentice, the Executive Director, the Sport Development Officer and people pulled in from time to time to help on projects. Items to be progressed include improving Croquet Matters (thanks to Pamela George for assistance), moving the yearbook to an electronic format, updating the green prescription pamphlet and developing some publicity and marketing materials for use by clubs.

If you have any suggestions/issues that you think any of the committees should be considering, please contact any of the committee convenors or the Executive Director.

Lastly, the Executive would like to thank everyone involved with making the MacRobertson Shield series a success. There are far too many people to name individually but suffice to say everyone's input is greatly appreciated!

AHS Handicap Changes in Association Croquet

At the 2012 Annual General Meeting of Croquet NZ (note: over a year ago), a resolution was passed to provide that, in association croquet, handicaps would always change immediately when the index reached or passed the trigger point for a new handicap. This change was deemed to come into force immediately.

Unfortunately this change was not carried through into the handicap regulations in the 2013-2014 Yearbook.

Although the decision of the AGM was communicated to all Associations at the time, it appears that some players may not be aware of it.

Please note that association croquet handicaps now always change immediately. This means that association croquet and golf croquet are aligned in this respect.

Sport Development Officer

The second in the series of Play Croquet posters has been distributed with this edition of Croquet Matters (sample only). This series of A4 posters have been made available to all clubs to display on any prominent notice board in your region; Regional Sports Trust offices, community notice boards, fish and chip shops, schools, retirement villages...

Please note that the contact information for your club needs to be added for each addition that you choose to display. Email CNZ at admin@croquet.org.nz with a contact name and number, and your club address. A PDF file will be returned to you which can be forwarded to your preferred printer.

Replacing each poster as the next becomes available will provide an appearance of a multi-faceted and active club, and increase the likelihood of responses from different demographics on each occasion.

NZ Open Championship

Hosted by the Wellington Croquet Association

25 January to 2 February 2014

CONFIRMATION OF VENUES

Headquarters: Kelburn Croquet Club

Other Venues: Waimarie Croquet Club / Petone Croquet Club (if required)

Enter Online at www.croquet.org.nz

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.



The MacRobertson Shield Trophy

Donated by Australian confectionery tycoon MacPherson Robertson, this wonderful trophy sports silver shields on which the names of the winning country and players are engraved.

PREVIEW 2013/2014

MacROBERTSON SHIELD TEST SERIES by John Prince MNZM (CNZ Life Member) and former NZ MacRobertson Team Captain and player

The MacRobertson Shield Test Series is the oldest and greatest international croquet contest, the jewel in the croquet world's crown.

No other croquet competition produces the tension, the drama, the elation that comes when a series is won, or the devastation of defeat.

Some years ago a young player, now an established member of the NZ team, was asked during the NZ Open about his ambitions in croquet. His reply was not a self-centered "win the Open" response but, to play for NZ in the MacRobertson. Such is the mana that goes with the Mac.

Since the first contest between England and Australia way back in 1925 the MacRobertson has enjoyed a rich history with many wonderful encounters, triumphs and bitter disappointments but above all the MacRobertson has made croquet the international game it is today and for those of us fortunate to take part life-long friendships were formed. Apart from an isolated anti-Mac rumbling from within the World Croquet Federation in its early days, the MacRobertson has been seen as the "Everest" for croquet players worldwide.

As I reflect back on past series from, of course, a Kiwi perspective I recall reading about, hearing about, or witnessing Australian Billy McCleery, in 1930 completing all three peels of a triple before running hoop five, and N.Z.'s Arthur

Ross "hurdling" the first hoop to hit the cross wire and Ashley Heenan playing a sensational jump shot through rover against Dudley Hamilton-Miller, when NZ first won the shield in 1950.

My own debut aged 17, midway through the 1963 series, and the huge thrill in playing against the legendary John Solomon from England. 1969 saw the arrival of two new young outstanding players in Nigel Aspinall for England and John Magor for Australia. N.Z mounting a challenge to the top order of British croquet in 1974, this led to victory at home for the Kiwis in 1979. I'll never forget Bob Jackson's match saving straight triple at Westport against Aspinall and Paul Skinley becoming the first player to compete a sextuple peel in the MacRobertson at Rotorua.

At Adelaide in 1982 we experienced for the first time hoops becoming too narrow when set in rock hard ground, Kiwi Richard Clarke in desperation letting fly at hoop six with a massive jump to have the ball finish wedged in the hoop six inches above the ground!

The huge excitement as that series was decided on the last match of the final test between Great Britain and Australia. Keith Wylie (GB) game down turned his match against until then the "player of the series" and undefeated in singles Neil Spooner before a large crowd at Warleigh in Melbourne.

1986 saw history made when Great Britain for the first time lost the series on home ground. The "tension in the twilight" doubles and the sensation hit in and finish from Paul Skinley against William Prichard. And, so the rich tapestry grows. In 1993 against Bob Jackson Dave Maugham with just two balls left on the court played a sensational break from hoop one to the peg to win the Shield for G.B. At United in 2000 the final test, the final match, the final game again involved Dave, this time with an

immaculate triple peel on a rock hard court with unforgiving hoops he secured the shield for G.B. who defeated NZ by the narrowest margin 10-11. Meanwhile the test between Australia and the U.S.A. also came down to the wire.

2003 saw an out of sorts Kiwi team having already lost to Australia and the U.S.A. at the National Croquet Centre in Florida face an undefeated G.B. team. On the back of a fantastic "Captain's knock" from Toby Garrison who won 5 from 5 matches the Kiwis went down 10-11. 2010 saw an amazing comeback by the Kiwis in the series decider against the old foe needing to win all 6 singles on the last day they came up just one short but gave the holders a huge shock.

To the current series being played in New Zealand at three venues, United in Christchurch, Marewa and Te Mata in Hawkes Bay, and finally Mt Maunganui.

All four countries have selected teams with players ranked within or near to their top six. So all should be more or less at full playing strength. Australia have three new caps in Ken Bald, Malcolm Fletcher and Tim O'Leary, former Cantabrian Ian Dumergue will captain the side which also includes World Champion Robert Fletcher and the stylish side stance player Stephen Forster, with Kevin Beard from 2010 at first reserve. The holders also have three new players their Captain Samir Patel, Jamie Birch and James Death plus the hugely experienced trio of Robert Fulford, Dave Maugham and Stephen Mulliner. Team USA contains just the one debutant David Maloof, former Australian rep Damion Bidencepe, Danny Honeycutt, and Ben Rothman, with the experienced pair of Jim Bast and Jeff Soo completing their line-up.

The hosts have one player making his first appearance for N.Z. but he's no newcomer to

test match croquet! Chris Clarke the current World number two, a former G.B. team member and former World Champion joins wife Jenny, Greg Bryant, Paddy Chapman, Toby Garrison and Captain Aaron Westerby in a very strong Kiwi side. The amazing Jarrod "Courtside" Coutts as Team Manager will provide great inspiration and support off the court.

With potentially three extremely strong doubles combinations and if Hawkes Bay and Mt Maunganui can produce the same challenging playing conditions United is renowned for, then I firmly believe the Kiwis go in as favourites.

New Zealand Team

Aaron Westerby (Captain)

Aaron, aged 39 is a massively experienced player, having won the NZ Open in 1994 and Sonoma Cutrer in 1996 His first Mac was in 2006. Aaron has bases in both Auckland and Raglan and works in computing. He is currently ranked world number 9.



Greg Bryant

Greg, aged 49 is now based in Wellington where he works as CNZ Sport Development Officer. Greg first played in the Mac in 1993 and is longing to win his first ever Series. Greg won the NZ Open in 2011 and 2012. Greg is ranked world number 6.



Paddy Chapman

Paddy, 26, is born and raised in Christchurch, but currently lives with his wife Miranda and son Oliver in Nottingham, England. Paddy has played in two previous Mac's and will be hoping to make it third time lucky. Paddy was runner-up in the recent World Singles Championship in London and is ranked world number 5.



Chris Clarke

Chris, 42, is a sports trader and lives in Christchurch with his wife Jenny. Chris emigrated to NZ in 2005 and has played in 5 previous Mac's representing England, which won them all. This will be his first Mac for NZ. Chris has won two World Singles Championships (1995 and 2008) and many National Doubles Titles. Chris is currently ranked world number 2.



Jenny Clarke

Jenny, 41, is a Lecturer in Sports Science at the University of Canterbury. Jenny has only played one previous Mac, but finished strongly winning all her matches in the final Test v USA. Jenny lives in Christchurch and is a member of the United club. She is current Women's AC World Champion and is ranked world number 14.



Toby Garrison

Toby, 35, works in banking in Wellington. He is massively experienced, having first played in the Mac in 2000 and having captained the team in 2003. Toby won virtually every major event in NZ last season and is ranked world number 4.



New Zealand Manager and Reserves

Jarrod Coutts (Manager)

Jarrod, 22, is about to graduate from the University of Canterbury with a Bachelor of Education (Physical Education). Jarrod successfully guided the NZ Golf Croquet team to the final of the World Champs in Johannesburg and will be hoping to go one better this time.



Paul Skinley

Paul lives in Wellington and is the only squad member to have won a Mac playing for NZ - in both 1979 and 1986. Paul is one of the most stylish players in the game and has won 3 NZ Opens as well as 10 Top Invitations. Paul is ranked world number 26.



Michael Wright

Michael lives in Wellington and works in banking. Michael played in the previous Mac team and came close to bringing the trophy back home. Michael is the current Open Doubles Champion and is ranked World number 53.



The MacRobertson Shield Test Series 2013-14

Kevin Fellows, Tournament Manager

The MacRobertson Shield is the oldest croquet teams event in the world, and the highest level of association croquet competition. Initially it involved only England and Australia, later New Zealand was added, and the United States joined most recently, in 1993. At various times the team from the United Kingdom has been England, Great Britain, and Great Britain & Ireland.

From the last series in 2010 the MacRobertson Shield has come under the aegis of the World Croquet Federation, and there have also been second and third Tiers of the World Teams Championships. The teams in Tier 1 (the MacRobertson Shield) are New Zealand, Australia, England and the United States. Other countries including Scotland, Wales and Ireland play in Tier 2, and still further countries play in Tier 3.



The MacRobertson Shield was last played in New Zealand in 2000, and on that occasion was played entirely in Christchurch.

The format of the event has changed over the years also. In 1979 in New Zealand, with three countries competing, it was played as nine 3-day Test Matches in 9 different cities and towns. This season, there will be three 5-day Test Matches in three locations - Christchurch (United Club), Hawkes Bay (Marewa and Te Mata Clubs) and Mount Maunganui (Croquet Mount Maunganui).

At each location there will be two concurrent Test Matches played:

Christchurch: New Zealand vs United States and England vs Australia

Hawkes Bay: New Zealand vs Australia and England vs United States

Mount Maunganui: New Zealand vs England and Australia vs United States

There is one day allowed for the teams to travel between the venues.

Each Test Match consists of 21 matches, 12 singles and 9 doubles. Each player will play 2 players of the other side in singles, and each doubles pair will play all three doubles pairs of the other side.

Each match is the best of 3 games, played without time limits.

At United and Mount Maunganui, there are not enough courts for all the matches that have to be played on each day, so some matches have what are called "late starts", ie, they start after another match has finished. If no matches finish soon enough, the late starting matches will start out double-banked with other matches. All the late starting matches will be singles.

A great deal of work has been put in by organising committees at each of the venues to ensure that the competition will run smoothly, and the courts, hoops and balls will provide

challenging playing conditions, and a high level of competition. As just one example, all the balls to be used have been measured down to 0.01 mm, and sorted into sets of matching sizes at this high level of precision.

The MacRobertson Shield is always an exciting competition, and frequently the result is up in the air until the very last day. Grab any opportunity you can to come along and watch this feast of croquet at one (or more) of the host Clubs.

From the Groundsman: Repairing Mallet Indentations

Pretty much every-one causes damage to the lawn at some time. Usually, it is caused when hitting down on the ball and the mallet follows



through into the ground. When you do this, please don't just put your foot on the damage since that won't repair the damage - here's what to do.

1. Get a key and gently "lift" under the turf that has become compacted.



2. Gently draw it backwards, so that it is at full length again.



3. Once you have done this, then you can press it back into place with your foot.



We have some fantastic lawns around the country - please help to keep them that way!!

Coaches' Corner: How to play Full Rolls

Full rolls are croquet strokes in the game of association croquet which are played by placing two balls in contact and striking one (the striker's ball) in order to cause both balls to move roughly the same distance.

Using the correct technique, all players can learn to play full rolls of at least the width of a croquet lawn, in most common lawn conditions.

Preparation:

Lining up: Line the balls up with the line of centres through the two balls pointing where you want the croqueted ball to go. Work out the spots on the lawn where you want each ball to go - and find the mid-point between those two spots - *this is your aiming point.*

Aim: Every stroke in croquet needs to be stalked. Go back 3-4 metres, prepare yourself for the stroke, Grip your mallet with your hands on the shaft where you will hold it to hit the ball (see below). Take a final look at the two ball positions you are aiming for, then focus on that aiming point. Stalk your striker's ball in the direction of the aiming point.



Stand with the front toe approximately level with the back of the striker's ball. This is important.

The striker is well balanced on both feet, with their weight comfortably over the front foot, or is balanced between the feet



for a level-footed stance. Note that both feet should be pointing forwards

The full roll is a "punch" stroke:

The full roll begins with a smooth take-away, back along the line of aim. The main focus is on the first 6 inches of the pick-up, taking it directly back, rather than across the body. It is particularly important to focus on this part of the technique when playing rolls side style.

See the contact:

Before commencing the take-away, take a last look at the aiming point, then maintain eye contact with the striker's ball throughout the stroke. **You must see the mallet strike the ball.**



Grip: The bottom hand is responsible for playing the full roll. This hand should be as near to the bottom of the mallet shaft as possible without touching the head of the mallet at any time during the stroke. The index finger can be pointing vertically downwards to help control the mallet head, or wrapped around the shaft.



The bottom hand grips the bottom of the shaft. Keep your body over the centre of the stance, and hold the mallet across the body.

The top hand provides support for the mallet and takes a comfortable grip on the mallet about 2/3 to 3/4 of the way up the shaft.

The player should remain with head and body over the centre of their base rather than to the side. To do this the mallet shaft is held at a slight angle across the body.

Stance:

Knees are bent to lower the body and enable a comfortable strike through the ball.

Weight forward:

Throughout the stroke the weight remains over the front foot, or over the balls of the feet for a level-footed stance.

“Punch” into the striker’s ball: At the top of the backswing, accelerate the mallet smoothly into the



striker’s ball. The stroke is a powerful punch – played down and into the striker’s ball.

Throughout the stroke the forearm should be aligned in the direction of the stroke so that the balls, wrist and elbow are in line – this will direct forces coming back through the mallet along the strong bones, rather than across the wrist joint, and will maximise the force applied by your punch.

Follow through:

The full roll is played as a strong punch.

The follow-through allows the mallet to naturally come to a stop after the punch. You should neither artificially stop the movement of the mallet, nor accelerate the mallet through the follow-through.

Eyes should maintain contact with the striker’s ball, ensuring the head stays down until after the contact period is complete.

Weight remains forward throughout the stroke and the striker should be able to maintain their stance to watch the balls roll to their final positions.

Summary:

The full roll is a punch stroke, played down and into the striker’s ball, to cause both balls to move approximately the same distance.

It is very important to hold the mallet with the bottom hand near the bottom of the shaft. This hand is responsible for playing the stroke.

Determine the aiming point and stalk the balls in this direction.

The toes of the front foot (or both feet, if the stance is level-footed) should be approximately level with the back of the striker’s ball.

After taking up the final stance the eyes should remain on the striker’s ball, seeing the mallet contact the ball.

Punch down and into the striker’s ball, with sufficient follow-through to allow the bottom arm and mallet to come to a comfortable stop.

Remain balanced throughout the stroke, with weight forward. From this stance you should be able to remain balanced to watch the balls roll to a halt.

Tournament report: MAGAK 2013

The MAGAK Coaching Event and the Wellington Men's and Women's Championships, hosted by MAGAK (Malcolm and Kathie Grant)

The newsletter is delighted to have the following tournament reports from Jenny Clarke

Labour Weekend saw the 6th MAGAK event, an Association Croquet coaching day followed by a sponsored tournament presented by Malcolm and Kathie Grant. The aim of this event is to increase the standard of play across NZ croquet by providing expert coaching followed by a tournament to enable players to practice those new skills.



This year's event was once again aligned with the Wellington Men's and Women's Championships. On 25th October, 29 players with handicaps from -3 to 12 and three coaches (Jenny Clarke, Greg Bryant and Josh Smith) gathered at the 5-lawn Waikanae Croquet Club for the MAGAK coaching day.

Coaching Day

Topics covered included shooting and hoop running, routines and pre-game warm-ups, a croquet stroke clinic and lots of peeling tips. Greg's goal setting session saw many goals set – and lots met – during the subsequent long weekend's play. Despite some very blustery and damp conditions, it was a very successful day with lots of outdoor activities mixed up with lively indoor discussions. Video feedback

through the iPad application *Coaches Eye* was very popular with some players and gave the opportunity to look in detail at key technique points.

Feedback from the coaching day was universally positive, with some of the highlights from the players' perspectives including: "roquet shot revision", "hints on hoop running", "peeling during TPs", "individual help", "multiple presenters". Time didn't permit much discussion on leaves or openings, which would be an important part of a two-day coaching workshop.

The subsequent tournament saw players achieve goals, run tricky hoops, and play croquet strokes with much improved technique. It was encouraging to note the number of players who attended the coaching took away ideas to share with their clubs in their own roles as coaches.

The 2013 Wellington Men's and Women's championships

The events were held at the Waikanae and Paraparaumu Croquet Clubs on 26-28 October. Manager Tom Berryman (aided by assistant manager Francie Vagg at Paraparaumu) attracted a record 35 players across 2 venues, 9 lawns, and 4 events (Men's, Women's, handicap 0+ plate, handicap -0.5 to -4 plate). Results of most games can be viewed on www.croquetscores.com.

The event featured lots of highlights – including excellent facilities, lawns, and challenging hoops and the traditional Coast hospitality. Some picks of the weekend include:

- Robyn Black (handicap 4) reached the women's semi-final with wins over NZ Trans-Tasman representative Alison Robinson and scratch player Ann Sharp

- Graeme Fisher achieved his CNZ Silver Merit Award with a rover-peel win over Kevin Fellows
- Paul Skinley played beautiful croquet to be undefeated until the Men's final
- Lots of triple peels were achieved, including 2 for Mike Crashley, and also for Peter Filbee and John Christie
- Pauline Reid took out the 0+ consolation event with 6/9 wins overall
- Mike Crashley won the minus players' consolation event in a close countback with 2013 Marton Open champion and World champs KO qualifier Brian Bullen.

The semi-finals of both main events saw emphatic wins for Greg Bryant (over Steve Jones), Paul Skinley (over Michael Wright), and Jenny Clarke (over Robyn Black), and a very tight all-Wellington battle for the fourth spot where Marion McInnes overcame Nina Mayard-Husson in three games.

The final, played in front of a growing audience and in clear sunny conditions, saw the event's lead coaches, Clarke and Bryant, record comfortable wins for Jenny to retain the Wellington Women's title and for Greg to regain a title he last won in 1999.

Many thanks are due to Malcolm and Kathie for their generous prizes (awarded to winners of all 4 events and runners-up in the Men's and Women's), and to the clubs, officials, caterers and other volunteers for their hard work over the four days.

Next year MAGAK visits the South Island with a 3-day MAGAK Open Association Croquet event at the United Croquet Club in Christchurch over Labour Weekend, preceded by a coaching day for players on handicaps -3 to 10 led by Chris and Jenny Clarke.

In summary, MAGAK is an event which has generated overflowing tournaments with great

atmosphere, and is visibly lifting the standard of Association Croquet play in New Zealand. It also provides a great opportunity for NZ coaches to connect and share ideas and experiences to take back to local associations and clubs. The number of players in the 2 to 10 handicap range both attending the coaching and competing in the tournament was massively encouraging.



Tournament Report: S.I.Champs

The South Island championships were held 2-6 November at United Croquet Club in Canterbury. Manager Chris Clarke kept all players busy in the tournament running a best-of three Open knockout with a flexible Swiss plate event for available players, a double round-robin over three days for the 4+ championship, and a block followed by a novel playoff for the doubles event.

Heavy overnight rain meant that all the lawns were flooded at the start of the tournament, but play got under way relatively quickly with only Lawn 5 out for the day.

In the open event, Peter Couch (Canterbury) made a welcome return to tournament play, and Murray Goldfinch (Otago) stepped up to the main event after winning the 4+ in 2012.

The match of the tournament featured Jenny and Chris Clarke who started their semi-final on a combined winning streak of 56 games (Jenny 18 and Chris 38). Chris won the first game 5th turn 26tp-0. In the second, Chris went to 4-b 4th turn, but Jenny hit the lift and won 7th turn 26tp-9. This broke an astonishing run of 34 consecutive wins for Chris against NZ Mac team members who have been selected for 2003-2013 series.

The deciding game saw Jenny go to 4-b 4th turn only for Chris to hit the lift and tpo 5th turn. The end game took over 30 minutes and despite hitting over 100 yards of roquets, Jenny was unable to fully capitalise, allowing Chris to win 26tpo-21.

In the second semi-final, Greg Bryant beat Aaron Westerby 2-0 with Greg dominating the match after an interactive first game.

The final was between Chris and Greg Bryant. Greg got off to a fast start, but when he failed 4-b with 1 peel of his triple done in the first, it was

to be the last time he took croquet in the match as Chris won the match in 5 more turns.

*South Island
Champion,
Chris Clarke,
Doubles
winners Jenny
Clarke and
Greg Bryant*



Aaron won the Plate event on 5/5.

The 4+ event was highly competitive with Bill Worley winning his first three games, before Jono Hart made a strong run. The tournament came down to a final-round match between Jono and Leo van Oosten which Leo took 17-12 (2.5hour time limits) to win the 4+ trophy.

Favourites for the doubles event Greg and Jenny opened with a 6th turn TP to Greg, but were strongly challenged by Chris Shilling and Richard Kimberley, and an improving Kathie Grant playing with Chris Clarke.

With 5 pairs and two days, a novel 7-round format was devised with an initial block play of 5 rounds, the top pairing then got a bye into the final, 2/3 played off for the second finalist spot) and 4/5 played a consolation game. The pick of the block games featured Geoff Duckett pegging out Chris Clarke with about 20 minutes to go, and partner Doug Nottage making a break from 4back to the peg after time to tie, but missing after rover. Kathie Grant hit a crucial 10 yarder, made rover and pegged out.

A potentially exciting final of Chris & Kathie vs Greg & Jenny saw Chris complete two peels of a TPO before sticking in 1-back and handing Greg an easy finish to retain the doubles title. The United lawns were in fantastic condition -

really promising for the first Tests of the MacRobertson Shield in January, and Chris was a deserving recipient of a CNZ Manager's Badge.

The CNZ Manager's badge is awarded to a person who has managed at least 3 CNZ events,

REGIONAL NEWS

Rescheduled tournament:

WAIKANAE OPEN SINGLES

Association Croquet Tournament
cancelled on 5th & 6th October

has been rescheduled to

5th & 6th APRIL 2014

ENTRIES to E Foye -

sandefoye@paradise.net.nz

or Y Fraser - yfraser98@gmail.com

The Rose Gardens Croquet Club Association Croquet Handicap Singles Competition for the Raewyn Elliot Cup

Young winner, André Murray gave a dominating performance in this event, defeating each of the other contestants by a substantial margin, despite giving most of them a considerable handicap margin.

Winner: André Murray

Individual results: André Murray (HC3) 4 wins+68 bt Hardman 26-5, Jones 22-12, Thomson 26-11, Skelsey 26-4; Melva Jones (HC9) 3 wins-2 bt Hardman 15-14, Skelsey 18-10; Michael Hardman (HC3) 2 wins-9 bt Thomson 25-24, Skelsey 26-14; Haig Thomson (HC10) 1 win-26 bt Jones 18-17; Terry Skelsey (HC10) 1 win-31 bt Thomson 26-15.

The 25th edition of the Palmerston North City Clubs tournament

The 25th edition of the Palmerston North City Clubs tournament (this year sponsored by Triton Hearing) will be held from the 11th to 16th January.

Enquiries to the Manager: Michael Hardman by email (mjhardman@xtra.co.nz) or phone 06 353 5980 or check page 314 of the Yearbook

Wairarapa croquet

Many years ago, certainly before my time, I understand the Wairarapa Association held various Tournaments on a reasonably regular basis. At that time, as well as our own two lawns, we had the use of additional lawns on the adjacent Oval in Queen Elizabeth Park. However, for various reasons, this arrangement did not last too long and we reverted back to just using our own lawns, plus the smaller practice facility we had. This worked well until the Masterton District Council decided to revitalise the Park, commandeering our small lawn (in fairness - after a battle, since replaced) in the process. Almost certainly, this had a serious affect on the events we could stage. A little later Carrington, previously Carterton, Croquet Club came on to the scene and this meant we had access to three competition lawns in the Wairarapa.

In 2010, CNZ asked to us hold the Association Croquet NZ Women's Invitation Event. The following year, the Central Premier Silver Badge and, this year, we have again hosted the Silver Badge Event. I think it would be fair to say that all players involved enjoyed themselves and considered the Events well run and similarly organized.

Whilst, in hindsight, we may (only may) have had some concerns about our hosting abilities, we need not have worried. Exposure to many of

NZ's top players over the past three years seems to have engendered a renewed interest and we now have several players with International and National honours. Many more players are keen to enter events elsewhere and we are keen to try and make sure that this new found enthusiasm continues. The results from the Lower North Island Teams and the Central NZ Veterans Championships confirm this.

Although Association Croquet is played more competitively in the Wairarapa, Golf Croquet is also played; however, it is more on a social basis. Ricochet has also been started, but, this is on a completely social basis and is open to all Members.

We received excellent exposure in the local newspaper for the Silver Badge and hope to have articles published locally on a regular basis. Similarly, we would like to let CNZ know what we are doing via their Newsletter.

Whilst we only a small Association with limited facilities, we have some excellent well-tended lawns in Masterton (2) and Carterton (1). The number of lawns severely limits the size of Tournaments we can host and we will not be putting any strain on ourselves and/or the lawns by, shall we say, attempting the impossible. Our reputation has, we feel, been enhanced by the exposure over recent years and we are keen to make sure that continues. Additional exposure for the game will continue to be sought locally with a view to ensuring that its current viability remains. We are, myself included, all getting older and we have to find replacement members to carry on the good work.

Finally, our lawns are not only pleasant to play on but the Park surroundings make it a more than pleasant way to spend an afternoon. Even though one might be sitting in the shade, drinking nothing stronger than coffee, watching the opposition get to 26 – 0 in record time.

Upcoming Centenary

Khandallah Croquet Club will celebrate its centenary in October 2014. If you have any anecdotes or photos which could be included in their celebration booklet please contact thorn.npam@gmail.com.

Otago Croquet Association News

Recently we played our Town and Country match in Alexandra a very close match with 10 games each. However, Country again held on to the trophy gaining 355 match points to Town's 341. It was a most enjoyable couple of days and our players from Dunedin thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality of the Alexandra club, as well as the lovely hot weather.



For someone who has always enjoyed that conviviality it is a delight to see the sharing of a meal together at a tournament still goes on. Ed.

Change to contact details in Yearbook

Page 16 Year Book - Kerikeri Club - Phone number for Miss G. Fletcher, (09) 401 7121

Northern Premier Silver Badge : Alex & Jenny Begg's email should be glencairn@maxnet.co.nz (the i is in the wrong spot in the yearbook)

Tournament entries on-line

If you wish to enter the Central Veterans (or any other CNZ tournament) through the CNZ tournament web site you first need to register for the site - at <http://www.croquet.org.nz/NZ/index.php?CID=nz-croquet---tournament-entry-forms>.

The registration process asks you for the obvious stuff such as name, address, phone number(s) and email address. After the phone numbers, it asks you for Username and Password. What this means is that you need to **choose** your Username and Password (you haven't already been assigned one by CNZ) and enter them. Be careful typing your password; this site doesn't ask you to enter it twice, as many do, so if you introduce a typo that's the version that is stored.

Request for a second hand mallet:

Janet Boutel from the Kelburn Club would like to replace her Pidcock Mallet. If you have one for sale please contact her direct on 04 938 6709 or janet@boutel.co.nz

Next Edition of Croquet Matters

1. MacRobertson Shield Preview #2 - the Opposition and statistics from Chris Clarke
2. Coaching Croquet with iPads - coaching with instant visual feedback
3. Croquet from around the regions, including a report on local coaching in the Auckland region

Please send us your news!

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

CNZ Merit Awards

Merit Award achievement standards are acknowledged by the award of Merit Award badges to qualifying players. These awards give players goals to mark their progress as they develop their Association Croquet skills.

The awards are achieved by players while winning games in handicap or level play tournaments.

The CNZ Coaching Levels 1-3 are closely aligned with the Merit Awards, with the Bronze award being the goal of a player mentored by a Level 1 coach, the Silver award being the goal of a Level 2 coach's athletes, and the Gold award, for the successful completion of a triple peel in tournament play – the ultimate goal of a player coached by a Level 3 CNZ coach.

The award standards are:

Bronze: Awarded for the first occasion in a tournament that a player completes a break of 10 hoops or more, with or without bisques.

Silver: Awarded for the first occasion in a tournament that a player makes a break of 12 hoops or more, without bisques. (Hoop points can include peels on partner ball, and peg points count.)

Gold: Awarded for a triple peel

Platinum: Awarded for a sextuple peel

Conditions:

1. The awards are only available for singles games, played on full-sized (or approved near full-sized) lawns, where the player is victorious.
2. Silver and Gold awards cannot be claimed if bisques were used to set up or

play the award-winning break or to tidy up any leave.

3. The awards can be achieved in handicap games.
4. Each award can be won once, and a lower award cannot be claimed after first claiming a more advanced award.

It is the responsibility of a player to be aware if he/she has made the requisite standard. However, tournament managers should know the criteria and ensure players are made aware if they have achieved an award during a tournament.

Merit Award badges can be claimed by application to Croquet New Zealand.