



February 2014

This month in Croquet Matters

This month we again visit tournaments and results. Emphasis is on the NZ Open Championships which were held in Wellington from 25 January to 2 February 2014, but it has been a very busy time with the 0-3/4+ tournament, the silver and bronze medals and the GC Invitations!

From the Exec

February has been a somewhat frustrating month for the Executive... let us give you a bit of background....

About 12 months ago a club wrote to the Executive Director indicating that their club was struggling and would have difficulty continuing... could they please have a waiver on levies until such time as they were more financially able? The Executive Director and Sport Development Officer met with the club and proposed a number of activities for the club to considering doing before CNZ would consider any proposal regarding levies. Well, that club has now increased its membership by almost 50%, has a thriving twilight competition generating some needed cashflow for the club and it looks like their promotion of croquet to the closest college will see them have a pair entered into the National Secondary School competition. They are even negotiating with their local council to move to a larger facility and join a sportville hub!!! A great effort by the club members!

Contrast this with a couple of other clubs:

One club puts forward a levy return with just a couple of players. CNZ is well aware that the club has in excess of thirty players. The association involved has visited the club on several occasions and discussed all the benefits of, and reasons for, affiliation, but this has not resulted in any action by the club in affiliating the rest of their players. Another club registers about six to eight members annually. However, on their club ladder in the clubhouse there are more than twenty players listed. These two clubs tell us that they will lose members if they have pay an affiliation fee. The affiliation fee works out to be less than \$1 per week. Can that really be such a deal-breaker?

A third club has around thirty social members and any players who wish to play in tournaments affiliate with another club within their association. The members seem quite happy to have their social activities and not be part of the croquet "family". Funny how when they need something they still think they should be able to get it without any cost.

We are trying to work with these clubs in the hope that they will see the value in being part of Croquet NZ and that we can have the same success with them as we did with the first club mentioned.

There are also two clubs of note. One has recently sold their land and has funds in the bank, although these funds are slowly reducing. The other club is on leased land with an option to purchase. They both want the best outcome for croquet in the region (and both seem to agree on what that

is/could be). However, the nuts and bolts of completing an agreement are proving elusive. We hope that further discussions can finalise an agreement satisfactory to both clubs and CNZ has told both parties we are happy to provide input into this.

Other frustrations which come to a head from time to time are relationships between “the golf croquet players” and the “association croquet players” that CNZ is asked to adjudicate upon.... one party or the other feels like they are being “crowded out” of the club they belong to. There are many clubs around the country who are managing this very well and we hope to provide information/case studies on this over the next few months.

Another “interesting” sideline is the Association where there are warring factions amongst the club delegates... The Executive Director will often field phone calls from both factions on the same day before an Association meeting.... both parties trying to gain the upper hand by asking for some information that they believe the other side might not have.

If your club/association is having any issues please contact the Executive Director or Sport Development Officer, we will be happy to try to help and provide solutions.

CNZ Awards & Qualifications:

Silver Awards:	Edmund Fordyce Owen Evans
Bronze Award	Logan McCorkindale

Sport Development Officer

It's nearly time for what is for me, a highlight of the CNZ tournament calendar; the NZ Secondary Schools Competition. This event is the catalyst for our secondary school and youth development programmes, and I hope that all the work done by those responsible is paid off with a venue full of young people enjoying our wonderful game. This season, we are expecting that some associations will be represented at the event for the first time, alongside the four regions that hosted the CNZ secondary school programme this season, South Canterbury, New Plymouth, Manawatu and Auckland.

The tournament conditions for this event have been altered to accommodate more players. Associations that have a regional playoff to determine their representatives can enter up to four doubles combinations, and those that don't yet require an association playoff may enter up to two teams. Playoffs are not exclusive to regions that have hosted the CNZ programme however, associations should now be canvassing their clubs and schools to promote and organise their regional event. Entries for the national event close with CNZ on Monday 24 March 2014. So get cracking folks! Round up some participants and have your association represented at this year's finals in Palmerston North. Full details are available on page 270 of the CNZ Year book, and on the CNZ website in the events calendar. I will be there again scouting for potential development squad members and World Under 21 GC champions!

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.

Reminder

Players are reminded of the CNZ Coaching session at the NZ Men's and Women's Championship in Wellington on Wednesday 12 March 2014.

8.30am - 12.30pm: Silver Award coaching
(12 hoop break or more without bisques)

1.00pm - 5.00pm: Gold Award coaching
(triple peel in competition)

Venue: Kelburn Croquet Club, Salamanca Road, Wellington.

Numbers may be limited. Preference will be given to those that are entered in the NZ Men's and Women's Championship 13th-16th March. (Same venue) It is envisaged that a participant will not attend both sessions. Please select the appropriate session and register at admin@croquet.org.nz

Light refreshments (morning or afternoon tea) will be provided for a nominal charge.

Tournament Reports

New Zealand Open Championships

Wellington 25 January to 2 February 2014

New Zealand Open Championships

Wellington can deliver many things - rain, wind, sunshine, heat, cool - just about anywhere can do that but Wellington gave us the works for the New Zealand Open championships held at Kelburn and

Waimarie Clubs from 25 January to 2 February 2014.

What was different this year was that everyone arrived at Kelburn club on the first morning to find that all 12 windows on the front of the building had been smashed in and the offending implement - a solid branch of silver birch was also thrown into the Club rooms.

The outcome of \$3,300 worth of damage was that club members, officials and players alike got to and helped clean up the mess, report it to the Police, the insurance company, the City council and the window repairers. Somehow this collective effort spilt over into the tournament and created a real camaraderie between the players and the club and its members. Thus despite all we had a truly friendly and enjoyable event.

Coming on the heels of the MacRobertson Shield a number of players who are usually present at the Opens had to return to work or were otherwise unavailable. Nevertheless we had three of the successful team plus the 2 reserve players and the manager competing. The field was somewhat smaller with 16 pairs in the doubles and 36 entrants in the singles.

Doubles were played in 2 blocks and the singles in 4 blocks which then lead to knockout draws. The doubles losers played in a plate event and the singles losers entered a Swiss event which later included the losers of the first 2 rounds of the knockout draw - all competing for the Heenan Plate.

The tournament traditionally starts with the doubles. A lovely Wellington day accompanied the opening rounds but the second day was rained out in the afternoon with the Kelburn lawns being flooded. Referees and players helped to peg down games and were thoroughly soaked for their efforts.



After that all went pretty smoothly until the second Saturday morning at Waimarie where play was delayed for an hour while the lawns drained after an 11 hour watering – the sprinkler timer was set incorrectly. Watering was only meant to be for 11 minutes to help the cracking hoop holes.

So what about the play?

The standard of play was thoroughly mixed from brilliant break play and well controlled triples to real struggles leading to such scores as 11-9, 13-12, 7-5.

The tight Quadway hoops may have added to the misery for some players as they need a lot of care and to play a hard long hoop required a pretty central position before attempting to run it.

Several players impressed. Aiken Hakes played many good turns. Dennis Bulloch was getting closer to his top form and Chris Shilling improved steadily as the event progressed. Mike Crashley reached his first NZ Open semi-final – a fine effort.

We have tried to encourage more players in the 0+ handicap range to play in this event recently and it was fantastic to see some really good performances. In the block stage, Harry Murrell, Liz McLay and Terry Price all did very well, whilst in the Swiss, Bonnie Johnstone, playing off handicap 6 picked up 2 wins to end the event up on her handicap card.

However, the top performer was Michael McClure who won 10 of his 16 games, a superb achievement, having entered off a 0 handicap.

Greg Bryant was clearly better than all the other singles players and thoroughly deserved his third NZ Open in four years.

Thanks to Kelburn club for providing the HQ for this event and to Waimarie whose lawns were in excellent condition.

Results

New Zealand Open Championship Winner



Greg Bryant

J.W Lill Challenge Cup



Runner-up: Jenny Clarke

John Prince Trophy

NZ Open Championship Doubles Winners:

Chris Clarke and Jenny Clarke

Shields presented by Messrs E.G. Rawnsley & N.H. MacFarlane



The photo of Chris and Jenny Clarke has another well-known croquet couple. Pamela George was the assistant manager and Graeme Roberts, Life Member of Croquet New Zealand presented the trophies. Chris was the Manager of the tournament.

Runners-up: Paul Skinley & Aiken Hakes



**Doubles Plate winners:
Anthony Ritchie and
Chris Shilling**



Atkins Trophies presented by R Atkins of
Christchurch - new for 2014



**Heenan Plate:
Chris Shilling**
Trophy presented by A.D.J
Heenan O.B.E.

**Charles Jones Memorial Encouragement
Salver
Mike McClure**



Salver presented by Alison
McMillan (Charles' sister)

**Also seen at the NZ Open
Championships**

*Photos from Janet Boutel of Kelburn club and
Ruth Wise from Adelaide*



*Steve
Jones in a
typical
'scorpion
pose'
lining-up
a peel*



Early morning practice at Kelburn Club

*Aiken Hakes and
Paul Skinley
contemplate their
response to the
opponents' play*



*Chris Shilling
giving a lesson in
balance*

*Callum Hyland from
Tasmania gives flair to the
lawns*



*A hot and steamy
(?) afternoon at
Kelburn*

Other Tournament Results

Golf Croquet Upper North Island Teams Event

Claudelands Croquet Club 24-26 January 2014

Overall		Won
1	Auckland	53
2	Bay of Plenty	47
3	Thames Valley	42
4	Waikato KC	37
5	Counties Manukau	30
6	Northland	16

New Zealand 0-3 & 4 Plus Championships Timaru 18-22 January 2014

0-3 Championships:
Winner: G Fisher - Wellington

4plus Championships
Winner: I Campbell Christchurch

4 plus Doubles Championship
Winners: T Dollan & L McCorkindale
Waimate/Waireka

4+ Handicap Singles
Winner: Logan McCorkindale

Women's Invitation Event
Wairarapa 7-9 February 2014

Manager's Comments by Neil Williamson

There was heavy rain on Friday night and Saturday morning resulting in 2 lawns at Masterton being unplayable until the afternoon.

As a result only two games were played on

Saturday (the second day of the tournament) and the lawns became unplayable again that evening.

It was decided to abandon game 6 and restart on Sunday as per the original timetable. The result was that all players missed out on one game

Congratulations go to Alison Robinson with 7 wins.

Runner up is awarded to Kathie Grant. Kathie was tied with Liz McLay with 6 wins. The tie breaker was decided by net hoops as per section play.

English Silver and Bronze Medals South Canterbury 15 & 16 February 2014

Silver Medal: Peter Couch
Bronze Medal Geoff Duckett

Golf Croquet Invitations

All hosted by the Auckland Association 21-23 February 2014

Yvonne Yeates Golf Croquet invitation

The Yvonne Yeates Invitation for the top 10 available GC players was held at Epsom Remuera 21-23 Feb. The weather was very humid with temperatures reaching 28 degrees with occasional showers. The lawns had been prepared, so that they were running at 10.5 seconds in the afternoon, but closer to 8 seconds in the morning dew. Frank Robinson had done an excellent job setting the hoops.

The standard of play was somewhat mixed, but as always there were spectacular shots with several successful Barnes-Wallis shots being achieved. At the end of day 1, Chris and Jenny Clarke were both unbeaten on 3/3 and they played in the fourth round. Jenny was unable to find her excellent form from day 1 and Chris won comfortably. He then went on to beat both Jared Keeman and

Hamish McIntosh. Tony Stephens was the only player to take a game off Chris and he took second place on count-back, having beaten Jenny 7-6 7-6 in the last round. It was good to see Hamish McIntosh playing again after a break to focus on his studies. After a slow start, he improved as the event progressed. Dennis Bulloch was fluent and always competitive. Steve Piercy, a late promotion from the second invitation, did well to pick up a couple of wins, notably against Jenny Clarke in a 39 point match. Jared Keeman showed the potential to be world class, but had too many bad patches to produce consistency. Mike Crashley started slowly and hasn't really been on top GC form this season, which could also be said of Erica Stephens and Dallas Cooke.

With the first ever GC Trans-Tasman not far away, many players remain in contention for places. It was good to see youngsters Lachy Hughes and George Redpath win the 2nd and 3rd Invitations and this bodes well for the future.

Report from Chris Clarke



**Duncan Dixon
Golf Croquet
Invitation**

Winner: Lachy Hughes (Manawatu)

8 matches 10 net games



Runner-Up Sabri Mullialiu (Auckland)

8 matches 9 net games



**Gordon Smith Golf Croquet
Invitation**

Winner: George Redpath (Inglewood)
8 matches



Runner-up Moya Lewis (New Plymouth)
6 matches (on countback from Ken Hume)

Up-coming Tournaments

Arthur Ross Memorial Event Handicap Singles Final Paraparaumu 28 February, 1 & 2 March 2014

Men's and Women's Championships,
Wellington 13-16 March 2014

Invitation Events to be held in
Christchurch 19-23 March 2014

- Croquet Association Silver Tray
- Edwina Thompson Silver Tray
- Roger Murfitt Trophy

The Croquet Association Gold Cup
Invitation Event will be held at the same
time in Wanganui

The Mrs R. A. Clarke Copper Tray Event
will be at Mt Maunganui

The National Secondary School
Tournament - Rose Gardens 29 & 30
March 2014

Southern Premier Silver Badge Nelson 5 &
6 April 2014

Croquet Hawkes Bay

80th Annual Association Croquet Tournament

Marewa Club, Napier, 15-18 March 2014

(Page 298 of the Yearbook)

Entries must be received by Sunday 9
March 2014. Email official entry form to
Lester O'Brien lester@nowmail.co.nz
(new email address)

Entry Fee: \$25 per event, tea and coffee
included. Lunches may be ordered.

Events:

Open Championship Singles First Division
Open Championship Singles 4 bisques & over
Handicap Singles

80th Annual Association Croquet Tournament

Te Mata Club, Havelock North, 20-23 March
2014

(Page 297 of the Yearbook)

Sponsored by the Yummy Fruit Company

Entries must be received by **Sunday 9
March 2014**. Email official entry form to
Terry McBeth tmcbeth@xtra.co.nz

Entry Fee: \$25 Singles' \$40 per pair doubles.
tea and coffee included. Lunches may be
ordered.

Events:

Handicap Doubles
Open Level Singles
Handicap Singles

Coaching Corner

I admit fully to being a player of Association croquet and have limited experience of Golf croquet except as played on high days and holidays such as opening day and the Christmas party. I have not learnt the competitive aspects of the game. My brief coaching articles must therefore be directed primarily to Association players. I would like to encourage people to give me coaching articles for Golf croquet players to assist them to enjoy and expand their game

How do I get or keep a break going?

Somehow when we are learning we find we destroy breaks as fast as we either pick them up or get handed one by an unlucky opponent. Mind you that can be done at many levels of play not just learners but hopefully by the time a few seasons have passed the basic rules for success have taken hold and a player "knows" when a break is coming apart and can do something about it before losing the innings and possibly the game.

As Arthur Ross says in his Croquet Handbook "a break consists of a series of three strokes repeated between the making of each hoop;-

- (1) Rush to the next hoop in order
- (2) Approach to the hoop
- (3) Making the hoop to come to rest upon a selected spot"

{Chapter 11 page 66 for those lucky enough to have access to this wonderful book.}

One of the secrets is the rushing to a spot not just taking a rush to somewhere and the hoping you can play a croquet stroke from there to be successful. Sometime that may be a short rush from which to play a

controlled croquet stroke (ideally again the balls to specific spots on the lawns).

One of the "Rules of Thumb" is in a three ball break to play to spots outside the four outside hoops and for a four ball break to keep the balls inside those hoops.

Thus for instance if you get a good straight up the lawn rush after running hoop 1 and have a ball near hoop 2 in a three ball break it is often simpler and easier to take the rush beyond hoop 2, croquet the ball to hoop 3 and come down on the rush line to hoop 2 than it is to do a huge split roll trying to avoid hoop 6 and coming either up short on the ball at 2 or going past it so that you are hitting the pioneer away from the hoop.

For a three ball break the croquet stroke at 2 should put the ball well north so it can be croqueted to the north boundary for the next croquet stroke. For a four ball break the ball should be near enough to the inside side of the hoop as the croquet stroke is much shorter to the central ball.

The purpose of such positioning is to narrow the angle of split in a croquet stroke and make the positioning of balls more accurate.

To practice: playing a ball to a spot not just somewhere near where you want it.

The second part of this is to determine which ball is important - the striker's ball or the croquet ball before playing the stroke.

A 'rule of thumb' explanation for break maintenance is to attempt to play croquet strokes from positions where the striker's ball needs to move the *least* distance. The shorter the distance that the striker's ball has to move in a croquet stroke, the better the chance is of maintaining control of that ball (generally!)

Enough for now.

Pamela George
Kelburn Municipal Croquet Club

GOLF CROQUET Laws

Wrong Ball Rule in GC

A much simpler statement of the wrong ball is given here for the benefit of those who find the full statement of Rule 11 difficult to follow.

Brief Rule 11

- 1. Identify who the striker should have been. (owner of the ball after the previous ball played) **Rule 1(e)***
- 2. The full penalty applies if the striker's opponent has played instead of the striker.***
- 3. The full penalty applies if the striker or striker's partner has played a ball they do not own. ** Rule 1(a)***
- 4. Replace balls and play the correct ball if the striker has played the partner ball in singles or the striker's partner has played his own ball in doubles.***

Application of the rule depends on 1 above, and the full penalty applies to playing out of turn or playing a ball you do not own. The full penalty is to replace all balls moved or leave all balls where they lie at the non-offending side's choice, and then the non-offending side resetting the sequence with either balls of their side.

Gordon Smith

COMMENT

**Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui Golf
Croquet Rules and Refereeing**

The revised Golf Croquet Rules

After receiving a request from members of the Rose Gardens Club, the CM-W GC Referee John Wall and the GC Handicapper Micki Tyler put on a couple of sessions for players in Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui recently looking at the changes and amendments to the GC Rules. A total of 12 people attended the sessions, and much discussion ensued - to the extent that we have had to express some of the concerns and questions raised to Gordon Smith! Included among these were a heartfelt request for further clarification of the Wrong Ball Rule (Rule 11), and a ruling from Gordon about a specific situation concerning playing for the wrong hoop. We are happy to let anyone who is interested know what our specific concerns are.

Golf Croquet Refereeing

We are happy to report that a large number of members of the Levin Club, some dozen or so, have requested training with a view to becoming GC referees. Consequently, John Wall and Micki Tyler will be going to Levin on three Wednesdays in March to conduct a couple of theory and one practical session. It is hoped that in the remainder of March and during April they will be able to undertake the examination of those who want to gain the GC referee qualification.

John Wall and Micki Tyler, on behalf of
Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui

Regional News

Hawera Croquet Club Inc. – South Taranaki Croquet Assn.

Business House GC Competition

Hawera Croquet Club held its first Business House Golf Croquet competition. It was run primarily as a fundraiser, but just as importantly to give an opportunity, for people to try the game of croquet in the hope that some new players would wish to join the club.

The competition commenced on 29 October 2013 and ran for one evening per week over the following six weeks. Twelve teams of two played and each team had one or two reserves. Club members were available for coaching and guidance at first, but as Business House players gained confidence and skill, the teams were able to enjoy and manage their own games.

The final competition night was played on Tuesday 3 December, followed by a Barbeque meal, prize giving and a genuine croquet demonstration by two experienced members, Peter Filbee and Bryan Williams, playing a Silver Badge final playoff. Peter narrowly won 7-6.

Another Business House tournament is now being run over eight weeks in February and March 2014. All the original teams have returned, together with six new teams. Two sessions are being run to cater for the 18 teams on the Club's three lawns.

As a result of this initiative, two participants have signed up as new Club members and two large groups have requested a social evening of GC, which has been arranged and run by members of Hawera Croquet Club.



Cherol from LIKELY LASSIES



Clive from CC ARCHITECTS



Kerry from THE YOUNG ONES versus ANZ BLUES team



Savita & Tania BLUES

+++++

The South Taranaki Croquet Association's 86th Annual AC Tournament was held on Friday 31st January to Sunday 2nd February at Hawera Lawns.

Handicap Doubles Winners: Moya Lewis & Felix Webby (Nth Taranaki), Runners-up Peter Westaway (Otago) and Malcolm McDonald (Sth Taranaki).

Open Championship Singles Winner: Murray McNae (Wang/Man), Runner-up Mavis Brogden (Nth Taranaki).

5-9 Championship Singles Winner: Malcolm McDonald, Runner-up Sue Williams (Sth Taranaki).

Whangarei in Summer Festival

Whangarei Croquet Club approached the organisers of the annually held Whangarei Endless Summer Festival to have croquet included for the first time. Over eighty events were in the programme, ranging from a Sculpture Symposium, Drag Show, Youth Theatre and now Croquet. Whangarei Club invited Kensington to join in on a different day. Kensington held their Have a Go on the 2nd February with Whangarei's date the 16th. Both events were highly successful with dozens of people of all age groups attending. These days were intended more as a P.R. exercise to expose croquet to a wider section of the community. As it happened several who had a go have returned to the Clubs to learn more.



Visitors came from all walks of life and seemingly from all parts of the globe.

Whangarei Club had visitors from England, Australia and the U.S.A., some tourists from Warkworth and plenty of locals. All age groups appeared - as individuals, in pairs and in family groups. Everyone was very enthusiastic and enjoyed the experience.

Because of the publicity in the Festival Booklet, newspapers and radio, the event reached others who couldn't come on a Sunday. A group of young people tried Golf Croquet at night and some Rotarians have booked 5th March to have a go.

Whangarei's motto is "Love it here" and that certainly applied to those on the croquet lawns.

Auckland Association

St. Heliers played Howick on Sunday 16th February, for the Bradley Tray. This is a competition held annually between the two clubs, St. Heliers has held it for the last year, However we were relieved of the tray this year in no uncertain manner!! Despite this we had a very enjoyable day with perfect hosts.

The Bradley Tray was first played for in 1952 for B grade players between Howick and East Tamaki. with interclub rules(as they were then) one match before Christ mas and one after. Mrs Bradley was the Howick champion from 1952-1963. When East Tamaki closed St. Heliers became the other team. It was then 3 pairs of players and one reserve of handicaps of 10-16 (old b grade) This year we had four pairs of golf croquet players for the first time no association players were available. St. Heliers players were between 5 and 10, Howick were 4-9.

Manawatu

The Rose Gardens Business House Golf Croquet Autumn and Spring Competitions are highlights of the Palmerston North Social Calendar. Up to 36 teams of four pay \$60 per team to compete over a six week period for each competition. Trophies and prizes are at stake. For the current competition there are 9 Schools teams competing at 4PM, 11 Novice teams at 5.15PM and 12 experienced teams at 6.15. It requires a big commitment by club members to service but brings in over \$3,000 per season to the Club, as well as a modest number of new members. For the majority of participants it is the only croquet that they play and the competitions have been designed to comply with the NZCC requirements for non-member participation in croquet.

Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui Golf Croquet Interclub Competition Week 3

Feilding's 8-0 victory over Takaro, following last week's 7-1 win, shot the former into first place on 17 points, one ahead of the previous front-runner, Rose Gardens. Levin and Wanganui have seven weeks left to challenge the front two but it already looks as if Marton & Takaro will struggle to move off the foot of the table without some big results.

Week 4

The competition at the top of the table is close. A 7-1 loss to Levin pushed Feilding back to third place with Rose Gardens and Levin now ahead of them. Marton had a strong 6-2 win over Wanganui.

Week 5

This week, the halfway mark, an important top-of-the-tables clash, saw Rose Gardens coming out top over Levin, to take the table lead, closely followed by Levin, with Feilding in third place. However, with eight points a stake in each match, positions can change

from week to week. Marton had a good win to continue their rise up the ladder.

Rose Gardens 5, Levin 3.

Takaro 2 Marton 6.

Wanganui 3, Feilding 5.

Points to date (net hoops in brackets): Rose Gardens 26 (+30), Levin 24 (+16), Feilding 23 (+41), Marton 19 (-11), Wanganui 17 (-22), Takaro 11 (-54).

Wellington v Manawatu-Wanganui Annual Croquet Exchange

This year, the honours in this annual event went to Wellington by the slimmest of margins. With Manawatu-Wanganui winning the Golf Croquet by one point and Wellington the Association Croquet by one point the total points were even. However, after adjusting the Association Croquet total to balance the number of games in each code, Wellington came out on top by 0.9 of a point.

Golf Croquet at Rose Gardens, Palmerston North

Manawatu-Wanganui 11, Wellington 10

Association Croquet at Paraparaumu

Wellington 6, Manawatu-Wanganui 5

One singles game was not played because of the ill-health of a player.

Combined adjusted result: Wellington 21.45, Manawatu-Wanganui 20.55.

Otago Croquet Association

On Monday the 10th February, **Wakatipu Croquet Club** played against **Alexandra** in a **NZCC Interclub Association Croquet Tournament**. The Tournament was played in beautiful weather, if a little too hot in the afternoon. Alexandra won 7 games with 141 points. Wakatipu won 2 games with 114 points.

The final in the series will be played 10 March at Alexandra".

"Wakatipu Croquet Club President, Frances Lewis, passed away on Saturday 15th February 2014. Frances was such a tower of strength within the Club as she knew SO much about all aspects of Croquet. We are going to miss her, as will many others."

"Wakatipu Croquet Club held their 14th Annual Wakatipu Tournament on Thursday 20th - Sunday 23rd February 2014. People from all over NZ and overseas came to play Association Croquet at this Tournament. Five Waimare CC Members: Tony Warrington, Marion & John McInnes, Jamie Cormack, and Mike Beardsell: and six players from the Dunedin area. It was played under all kinds of weather - extreme heat, a cloudy sky, quite cold after overnight snow on the tops, then sunshine again! Everyone had a wonderful weekend of fun, laughter and very good Croquet.

The results were:

Doubles won by Jamie Cormack (Waimare) & Paul Frude (Wakatipu), Runners-up Marion McInnes (Waimare) & Karen Jamieson (Wakatipu).

Senior Singles: Murray Goldfinch (Leith), Runner-up John McInnes (Waimare)

Intermediate Singles: Lynley Browne (Forbury Park), Runner-up Tony Warrington (Waimare)



Chris Donald (Tournament Convenor) on left, and Lynley Browne (OCA Secretary).

Wellington

Khandallah Croquet Club turns 100 this year

Khandallah has the smallest croquet club affiliated to Croquet New Zealand, with just one lawn and a little clubhouse to match, yet the club has survived the ups and downs of 100 years. Membership levels are good - in fact near the maximum we can cope with, and enthusiasm abounds. We cater for all ages, from a group of local high school students preparing for the National Secondary School Golf Croquet Tournament to players in their 80s. Golf croquet predominates and this season we had several teams competed in the inter-club competition.

The club is preparing a history of the club set in the local and social context of 100 years, and with an eye to the future. The first croquet lawn was formed by the adjacent bowling club in 1910, primarily for the lady members of the bowlers' families, and this led to the establishment of the Khandallah Croquet Club in 1914. The bowling club itself was established on the site of a private croquet lawn belonging to the wealthy Izard family who sold it the land. We'd love to hear from anyone with a link to the club - their own or a relative's - who could contribute information or photos. We have good pictures of the property from the early days, but little to show changing styles of dress and equipment used for croquet here or elsewhere in New Zealand, or our players at home or away.

The committee is also considering ideas to celebrate the club's centenary. Please contact me if you would like to be part of any of this.

.. and our new pavilion

Recently, our local MP, Hon Peter Dunne, opened our new 'pavilion'. The pavilion has greatly improved shelter for members and visitors from sun and wind. We hope that having this extra protection alongside the green will also encourage community and business groups to hire the croquet facilities,

an essential ongoing source of income for the club.

The pavilion was a very special project for another reason. It was designed (in consultation with the club) and built by Trades Academy students at Wellington Institute of Technology (Weltec), young men around 16 – 18 years old. They constructed it in workshops at Weltec and erected it on site. This hugely positive educational programme benefited the students by giving them experience on a ‘real’ and much needed community project. The students are rightly, extremely proud of their achievement. On their on-site days, members of the club provided the students and staff with morning and afternoon tea, and lunch, which the boys loved. The opening was a very enjoyable occasion with the students being presented with certificates expressing appreciation for their achievement. It was also an opportunity to promote the club and the sport of croquet, and gave the students and some parents and staff some fun on the green.

We are grateful to NZCT for a generous contribution to the cost of the materials.

Gaylia Powell
President
gaylia@paradise.net.nz



Food for Thought

In the January newsletter we said that Hemi McLaren-Mellars large handicap reduction from 18 to 8 was being looked at again.

Hemi has made the following comment which the editors believe should be shared:

Youth Perspective:

As a Gen. Y, there really is nothing more demotivating than being rewarded for achievement and then having that taken away, especially when we are not including in the debate/decision-making process, that impacts directly upon us.

With this in mind and to enable a consistent approach for advancing the uptake of the sport and keeping my age demographic engaged, I recommend the following (as Mum would put it, by way of lessons learned and continuous improvement) for Croquet throughout NZ:

If there IS doubt in the Official Handicapper's mind on the day, then:-

- a) the Handicapper should make it clear to the young player that he/she is recommending a handicap drop and the key reasons for this recommendation
- b) if a specific handicap drop number needs to be given, then this be offered as a recommended range, rather than a definitive number, and also ensure there is clarity about how and who will be involved in the final handicap reduction decision, and lastly
- c) if a recommended decision is to be debated, then as a matter of courtesy, the member that is being impacted by the decision (no matter the age), should be included in the discussion as it occurs, or at the very least be given the opportunity to put forward their thoughts/feeling on the subject.

If there is NO doubt in the mind of the Official Handicapper due to their considered and impartial observation of the player over the whole course of the tournament, then that

Official Handicapper's handicap reduction decision should take precedence over other parties who may not have had the opportunity to observe a player's performance for some time. As per the tenure of the non-automatic changes of handicaps as set out in the handicap related guidelines of paragraphs 2-10 (p195-199) and specifically section 4.2, 4.3 & 9.4 of the hand book, once the change has been made to the player's card, then that decision should stand.

Respectfully yours,

Hemi McLaren-Mellars
Morrinsville Croquet Club Member

Well done Hemi for reminding us about our expectations of players of the future.

Next Edition of Croquet Matters

1. Results of the various AC Invitation Events
2. A review of the NZ Men's and Women's Championships Wellington from 13-16 March 2014
3. Comments on the Arthur Ross Memorial Event 28 February to 2 March 2014

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 and Pamela George