



December 2013

This month in Croquet Matters

This month we continue with the run-up to the MacRobertson Shield and included some Golf Croquet as well as Regional events.

From the Exec

We are pleased to advise that Geoff Young was able to stand for election to the WCF Management Committee and was elected in a recent vote. Thank you Geoff for agreeing to stand and we look forward to a good working relationship with the WCF through our relationship with you. Gordon Smith has retired from the WCF Management committee and we thank him for his valuable contribution over the last few years.

The WCF have also asked for expressions of interest for places in the Over 50s World Champs (Cairo - scheduled for October 2014) and the Womens GC World Champs (also Cairo - scheduled for November 2014). If you are keen to play in either of these events please watch out for info in future editions of this newsletter and the Croquet NZ website.

Most will have seen the new Golf Croquet rules approved by the WCF recently. Copies have been sent to Association secretaries for distribution to clubs, info is on the Croquet NZ website and those who have ordered hard copies will receive them shortly. There are still copies available from the office but there will be a small charge for them.

Two issues seem to raising their head around the country.

The first is behaviour on the lawns. We know Croquet is an amateur sport and we all are passionate about the game. We also know that during key moments in a game, emotions can run over when something doesn't go our way. However, this is no excuse for abuse of volunteer officials or language directed at opponents. Obviously every situation is different but we encourage all managers to initially deal with the situation with tact (often a quiet word at an appropriate moment will do the trick), then act firmly if the poor behaviour continues. Croquet New Zealand has a code of conduct which players should abide by (copy attached). If a manager believes any player's poor behaviour requires further action then a formal notice detailing which areas of the code of conduct were breached should be forwarded to Croquet NZ.

Secondly, dress code during Croquet New Zealand events. There has been some grumblings by club members over the dress sense shown by a number of players during the season to date. Therefore the Executive wish to outline the minimum expectations when players compete in a Croquet NZ event:

“Acceptable croquet clothing” means to the Executive:

- Clean
- Tidy (ie no rips holes etc)
- Shirts with sleeves are preferred, although it is acknowledged that many players may wish to wear sleeveless tops in hot weather
- If wearing a sleeveless top or singlet, those with slogans are not encouraged (tidy sports singlets preferred)

However, if the host club for the event has a clothing policy of a higher standard than this, they should advise participants of the dress code prior to their arrival at the tournament, otherwise the above shall be deemed acceptable.

If the dress code is not met by a player when they arrive at the lawns, then again there are several ways to approach the situation. The best way to deal with the situation is by using a bit of tact and we would encourage host clubs to use this approach in the first instance. It is normally not helpful to rectifying the situation by confrontation or demanding a player change, although this may need to happen if behaviour re-occurs.

Finally, to finish on a more positive note, everything is in high gear now for the start of the MacRobertson Shield on 30 December in Christchurch. I know in the last edition we thanked the organising committees and all those who will volunteer over the next month to make it a great event, but just seeing first hand all the work that goes into making an event like this a success is just amazing – the tournament just could not proceed without all the volunteer help that goes into it. Thank you all for your hard work!

To our Captain Aaron Westerby and the team, we know you will do us proud. Good luck! The croquet community will be watching with enthusiasm!

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CNZ Merit Award Winners this month

Bronze Merit Award:

Helen Cooke - Ashbury Club (South Canterbury Association)

New Golf Croquet referees

John McKenzie - Tauranga Club
Rita Roberts - Tauranga Club
Colin Roberts - Tauranga Club
Dorothy Dyson - Rotorua Club

New AC Umpire

Judith Hunt - Levin

Sport Development Officer

The re-introduction of our regular newsletter earlier this year has been well received by many clubs and members throughout the country. Informative articles to assist player and club development, tournament information, and regional news contributions provide all of us with something of interest/benefit, and out of this, a publication that contributes significantly to the wellbeing of croquet in New Zealand.

Unfortunately, some distribution gaps are appearing of late, with reports that some of the community have been denied! This problem should not arise but it may indicate that those of us responsible for ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to stay informed may need to be a little more proactive. Currently, Croquet Matters is distributed via these channels;

- Email distribution to all people that have registered to receive the newsletter via the CNZ website. Anybody with internet access can do this to receive their own copy of Croquet Matters. Go to www.croquet.org.nz, click on "Newsletter" on the top menu and fill in the details.
- Email distribution to all Association Secretaries (excluding those that do not have an email address) We have this month also added club secretaries.
- Croquet Matters is also available to anyone via a link on the CNZ website under "Latest News" on the home page. The link is usually added a few days after email distribution.
- Some Club Secretaries print and display on their club notice board. Ideally, ALL Club Secretaries will now be doing this! (There is a cost of doing this, and Secretaries should be suitably compensated). Alternatively, send the

file off to your local printer to have a colour copy printed for the club.

You will also be able to access any monthly attachments, for example, the monthly "Play Croquet" series of posters for club promotions, or the new GC rules. Links to attachments are always sent out in conjunction with the newsletter link.

A plea from Croquet NZ to Club Secretaries or anyone reading this that becomes aware that others are missing out; please promote these distribution channels amongst your membership.



It's Mac time!!! Rarely do we have the awesome opportunity to see the world's premier croquet event in our own back yard. I do hope to see many of you at one of the 3 venues supporting our team and our campaign to regain international supremacy. GO THE KIWIS!!!

Greg Bryant

PREVIEW 2013/2014

MacROBERTSON SHIELD TEST SERIES

The November 2013 Newsletter gave us the bios of the New Zealand Team

This newsletter includes bios on the other teams who will challenge for the Shield

Australia

Ian Dumergue (Captain)



Ian is an Underground Safety & Training Advisor with Gold Fields Australia at Darlot Gold Mine in Western Australia. He is married to Ceridwen and they live with their young children in the Perth Hills. Ian is a member of the Forrest Park Croquet Club.

Born in Christchurch New Zealand, Ian was introduced to croquet by his great-uncle Jack McNab in 1986 at the Sumner Croquet Club.

Ian has represented both New Zealand and Australia in the Trans-Tasman Test Series. This will be his third appearance in the MacRobertson Shield Test Series and first time as Captain.

Ken Bald

Ken, a retired builder started playing croquet in 1993 after much nagging by his late mother-in-law Fran Thomas. Ken has represented Victoria nine times



playing for the Eire Cup and other highlights have been playing in the 2005 World Championships; representing Australia in the Trans Tasman in 2006; playing in the Resort Invitational held at Timberline Mt. Hood (USA); being invited to play in the World Championships in Christchurch, Florida and Adelaide; and finally of course his selection in the MacRob Team at the grand age of 69.

Malcolm Fletcher

Malcolm at the age of 19 is playing in his first MacRobertson Shield Test Series and is very excited and proud to be wearing the number 67!

By the beginning of the competition he expects to have completed both Year 12 and a Cert 3 in Agriculture.

Malcolm enjoys playing his guitar, working with his three sheepdogs, eating most foods that aren't too spicy, and beating his brother, Robert at croquet, tennis, squash, table tennis and all video games etc.



Robert Fletcher

Robert started playing at the Lismore Croquet Club, in South West Victoria, in 2004. This year he represented



Australia in the Trans=Tasman and his most recent international event was competing in the WCF AC World Championship which he won.

He is currently completing a course in Agriculture through Ballarat University, while working in the family business. His interests include watching and playing sports like tennis, cricket, snooker, table tennis, AFL, hockey, and anything else that looks interesting.

Stephen Forster



Stephen is a Theatre Technician Operating Suite at the Geelong Hospital and has been married to Julie for 22 years and they have two children.

This is his fourth time in the Australian MacRob Team, a tournament that he enjoys. He is looking forward to another tough competition as well as catching up with the players. Playing for his country in this event is the highest achievement and he very much wants to play in the next MacRob

Tim O'Leary

Tim started playing croquet at the age of 8 in country South Australia and two years ago moved to Adelaide with his wife and two boys. He played in the World Championship in Adelaide and was awarded a



Croquet Australia scholarship to play in New Zealand earlier this year. Also in 2013, Tim represented South Australia in the Eire Cup, won the Tom Armstrong Memorial Trophy and in June was winner of the Patron's Trophy. He is looking forward to playing in his first MacRobertson Test Shield Series.

ENGLAND

Samir Patel (Captain)



Samir has been playing croquet since taking up the sport in the mid-nineties at Oxford University, and won his first A-class tournament in 2001. Now a member of Surbiton Croquet Club, he has won the Club Championship for both Association and Golf Croquet

and was part of the team that won both inter-club competitions in the same year.

Major tournament successes include reaching the British Opens Final (2008) and Quarter Finals of the World Championship (2012). He has represented England in the Home Internationals and European Championship, and Great Britain in the Maugham Salver and Solomon Trophy since his debut in 2007. He has been as high as fourth in the world rankings.

Samir is an Operational Research consultant, is married and lives in Richmond, Surrey. His son can often be seen court-side announcing that 'Daddy is doing it all wrong' and demanding to be allowed to play.

Jamie Burch

Jamie Burch - from Reigate Croquet Club in Surrey, England. A painter & decorator by trade. He is a busy family man who enjoys spending time with his wife and 2 young children. He still finds enough time for croquet and darts - his winter sport.



James Death



James has been around croquet since birth. A member of Nottingham croquet club, he has been part of the successful club and county sides.

Individually he has also won the UK's Men's Championship and Presidents Cup (1st Eight). In the last 3 world championships he has reached the last eight twice and the semi-finals back in 2005.

Outside croquet, James enjoys food, drink and computer games.

Robert Fulford

Robert is one of the most successful players in the history of the game. He has won the world championship a record 5 times and has been part of a winning British MacRobertson Shield team on an unprecedented seven occasions (twice as Captain). Other

achievements include winning the British Open 9 times, the British Open Doubles 12 times, 10 with Chris Clarke and twice with James Death. He is the current holder of the President's Cup which he has won 11 times. Robert plays with a fluent style and loves tactics, employing a wider range than other top players.

Robert was born in Colchester in 1969 and started playing aged 15 at the Colchester Club where he still plays. Robert and his most regular doubles partner nowadays, wife Susan live in Lower Raydon, Suffolk.



David Maugham



David Maugham was introduced to croquet by his father in 1981 when he was 12 and started playing competitively in 1985. He has won various singles honours including the British Open Championship, British Mens Championship,

British President's Cup on 4 occasions, the Sonoma-Cutrer World Championship 3 times, the Australian Open, the US Open and 25 British Regional Championships. His doubles successes include three British Open Doubles titles (with Steve Comish, Chris Clarke and Mark Avery) and three British Mixed Doubles (once with Jenny Williams and twice with Ailsa Lines).

David has also been on six MacRobertson Shield winning Great Britain sides, and considers his best match to be the one in which he completed a TP to win the deciding game of the final match of the test against New Zealand at Christchurch in 2000 when the scores were level.

Outside of croquet, David works as the IT manager for a natural stone company; has a black belt in ju-jitsu; enjoys computer games; and practices modern jive dancing.

Stephen Mulliner

Stephen Mulliner, 59, took up tournament croquet as a Cambridge undergraduate in 1976 and it has remained his principal competitive recreation ever since. In Association Croquet, he has won the British Open Championship in 1988,



1990 and 2000, the Open Doubles 9 times, the President's Cup 5 times, the Sonoma-Cutrer Championship 4 times, the European Championship 11 times and the Mens Championship twice. He was 2nd in the 1997 and 2008 AC World Championships and has represented Great Britain in the MacRobertson Shield in 1982, 1986, 1990, 2000, 2003 and 2010.

He began to play Golf Croquet seriously in 2000 and has won the British Open Championship 8 times, including 2010-13, the European Championship in 2007, 2009 and 2013 and the English National Championship (Ascot Cup) in 2012. He reached the GC World Championship semi-finals in 2000 and 2006 and captained England in the inaugural GC World Team Championship 2012.

In 1978, he devised the original AC Croquet Grading System, now administered by Chris Williams, and now runs the GC International Grading System. He is a Vice-President of the Croquet Association, a member of World Croquet Federation Management Committee and President of the European Croquet Federation, in which capacity he has enjoyed visiting many of the European croquet nations to play or coach. He enjoys travelling with his mallet and has now played in croquet tournaments or championships in 15 countries and is currently the only player to have won the AC Open Singles and Doubles championships in Australia, England, New Zealand and the United States.

Stephen lives in Haslemere, Surrey, is married to Sarah and has four children aged 24 to 30.

He is a management consultant, active in local politics and a keen golfer and all-round sportsman.

USA

Danny Huneycutt (Captain)



Born 1959, Danny began playing croquet in 2002 and immediately became involved in the North Carolina District administration, club building, teaching and tournament directing.

His most cherished croquet moments are, in chronological order, winning the 2005 National Championship, partnering with Jeff Soo to win two of three doubles matches in the 2005 Solomon, winning the deciding match to win a test for the USA during the 2006 MacRobertson Shield, winning three of three singles matches during the 2008 Solomon, partnering with the Goat to come within one turn of winning the 2008 British Open doubles championship.

At age fifty, with thirty-one years of service, Danny retired March 31, 2009 to focus on croquet.

Jim Bast

Jim began playing in 1981 and was named the USCA Rookie of the Year in 1982. He became the USCA Singles and Doubles Champion in 1984. Jim took a ten year break beginning in 1996 to raise a family and began playing in earnest again in late 2005. He has also won the Canadian Championship twice. Jim has



represented the USA as a member of 11 national teams, including 3 MacRobertson Shield teams.

He was a member of the first USA MacRobertson Shield team in 1993.

Jim is blessed with the spousal support of Cynthia, an attorney specializing in affordable housing law. They are residents of Austin, Texas and have two daughters. Olivia (14) and Amelia (11) both use the Solomon grip.

David Maloof



Born in Massachusetts in 1954, David has been the director of tennis at Mountain Lake in Lake Wales Florida since 1979. He added croquet to his schedule in 1995 and due to his work has been limited in playing competitive croquet

until just recently. The desire to represent his country and the support of his clubs, David teaches croquet in the summers at Grandfather Golf and Country Club, Linville Ridge Golf and Country Club, and Linville Resorts in Linville NC, as well as his winter job in Florida, made it possible for him to start competing and he secured a spot on the US National Team after a successful Selection 8's in 2011 and 2012. His first international competition was this past July when he played the Solomon Trophy in England.

David is married his wife Mieke and they have 1 son, Kyle, who is following in his dad's footsteps and is the head tennis professional under David at Mountain Lake

Ben Rothman

Ben learned the game of Croquet (American Rules and 9-wicket) as an adolescent from his uncle Larry Stettner, who played the USCA competitive circuit. After



many years of casual toiling, Ben joined the ranks of championship players in late 2007. With some luck and a lot of free time, Ben began winning tournaments and competing with his idols. Ben joined his first US Team for the 2008 Solomon Trophy and won his first National Championship in 2009. That same year he battled through his first World Championship and lost the final to Reg Bamford. Ben has since been a member of two victorious Solomon teams (2009 and 2011) and the 2010 MacRobertson Shield team as well as team captain of the 2011 Carter Challenge. Ben has now the most US National Championships (14) and is the only player to have held all 6 titles at once.

Ben works as a Croquet Pro at the Mission Hills Croquet Club in Rancho Mirage, CA and resides in Oakland, CA with his fiancée Cody Aichele.

Jeff Soo



Jeff Soo has been playing competitive croquet since 1994. The 2014 MacRobertson Shield is the 11th time he has been selected to represent the US in an international team

competition. He has won US national titles in Association Croquet, Golf Croquet, and American-rules Croquet.

Rich Lamm

Recently shifting to Palm Springs, California, Rich Lamm made his US team debut at the 2004 Solomon Trophy event in Bowdon, UK. He also contributed to the US team victory over Ireland in 2009. A



member of the 2006 and 2010 MacRobertson Shield teams, this is his third MacRob appearance. He enjoys American, golf and association rules croquet, winning the US association rules 2007 and 2012 national titles and the 2002 and 2003 US Open. He also holds the US 2011 golf croquet singles and doubles titles (partnering with MacRob team member Danny Huneycutt).

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Statistics for the MacRobertson Shield

Statistics seems to be an essential part of any sport. We thought to start on them with a list of the relative World Rankings for the four teams. The most interesting fact is how even the teams are despite the individual rankings.

Chris Clarke has given us the following details:

The event dates back to 1925 when the first Test Series was held between Australia and England. NZ played for the first time in 1930 whilst the USA admitted in 1993. There have been 20 previous events;

- Australia have won 3 times (last time in 1935)
- England have won 14 times (including all the previous 7)
- New Zealand have won 3 times (last time in 1986)
- USA have never won

The last event was held in England in 2010 and saw the home side narrowly win with NZ second, USA 3rd and Australia 4th.

Relative Rankings of the players from the World Ranking List:

World Ranking	Name	Grade
AUSTRALIA		
1	Robert Fletcher	2779
19	Stephen Forster	2421
23	Ken Bald	2399
30	Ian Dumergue	2353
37	Tim O'Leary	2322
55	Malcolm Fletcher	2264
165	TOTALS	14538

World Ranking	Name	Grade
ENGLAND		
6	Robert Fulford	2551
11	David Maugham	2466
12	Jamie Burch	2454
16	James Death	2440
21	Stephen Mulliner	2418
24	Samir Patel	2396
90	TOTALS	14725

NEW ZEALAND		
2	Chris Clarke	2724
4	Toby Garrison	2613
5	Paddy Chapman	2567
8	Aaron Westerby	2515
9	Greg Bryant	2489
18	Jenny Clarke	2427
46	TOTALS	15335

USA		
7	Ben Rothman	2539
25	Danny Huneycutt	2395
26	Damon Bidencepe	2393
32	David Maloof	2345
57	Jim Bast	2253
73	Jeff Soo	2204
220	TOTALS	14129

Each Test is a best of 21 matches and each match is best of 3 games. Each team has six players. The three doubles pairing all play each other giving 9 matches, whilst the players are put in order of strength for the singles and each play 2 matches against the opposing team. For example, if you are the number 3, you will play the number 3 and number 4 of the opposing team at singles. This gives 12 singles matches and 9 doubles, totalling 21.

New Version of the Golf Croquet Laws

An updated version of the Golf Croquet Rules has been distributed to Associations. Copies are available from Croquet New Zealand.

The Rules can also be downloaded from the CNZ website. Do download both of the attachments. In the "Introduction to the Changes" there is reference to "Rulings" which came out a few years after the 2007 Rules. These can be found on pp 163-164 of the 2012-13 yearbook.

Gordon Smith has kindly provided the following comments on The GC Rules 2013 Version.

When looking at the new Rules for the first few times, please read the introduction alongside the Rules. That will show what has changed, so what you need to take care with.

Probably the most important change is to the Wrong Ball Rule. The rule covers in a logical sequence what happens when any of the likely and some unlikely wrong ball plays have occurred. The introduction gives a shorter explanation of the different cases. But for a really short statement try to remember the following:

"If anyone plays a ball that does not belong to them, or when it is not their sides turn to play, the full penalty applies. Otherwise it is either correct play or a replay is permitted. We only look at the latest ball played and the previous ball, any play before then has been accepted."

This is the same for singles and doubles.

Four Examples, where OoK means owner of black, etc.:

OoR plays R, OoK plays B - WB claimed - the right side has played but OoK does not own B, so RaY may choose to replace B and any other ball moved or to leave it where it finished and to play either R or Y.

OoR plays R, OoB plays B - WB claimed - OoK should have been the striker, the right side has played, but the wrong player has played their own ball. Any balls moved are replaced and OoK plays.

OoR plays R, OoB plays B, OoY plays Y - WB claimed - As OoY has played, then B's wrong ball play is accepted, but Y does not follow B, so Y is replaced and OoR plays again.

OoR plays R, OoY plays Y - WB claimed - the wrong side has played, so BaK has the choice of leaving any balls moved where they lie or having them all replaced and either OoB or OoK plays.

Golf Croquet Queries by Gordon Smith

In a situation where blue plays, and his partner immediately plays black what is the remedy?
There appears to be different interpretations of this.

My answer:

Blue has played - it is now red's turn to play, but black plays before red. A wrong ball has been played. It was not played by the striker or the striker's partner, as owner of red is the striker (by Rule 1(e)). That takes us past 11(b) & (c) to 11(d).

However, you say "immediately", what I have said above applies if the playing of black is at the pace of a normal turn, blue has come to rest and then black steps up and plays.

If instead "immediately" is meant to mean instantaneously so that both balls are in motion at the same time, then Rule 6(f) applies.

The difference between the two situations is that in the first above there have been two distinct turns, while in the second we have two simultaneous turns.

There are different outcomes. In the first case (two consecutive turns), black's play is a wrong ball play, the opponents choose whether to replace it and any other ball moved by it and then my play either of their balls. In the second case (two simultaneous turns), black's play is a non-striking fault, the opponents choose whether to replace or leave the black, and any balls moved by black, and black loses the next turn, so red plays then yellow then blue.

NI GC Grades Tournament

There were some excellent performances by Manawatu-Wanganui players in last weekend's North Island GC Nationals at Wanganui & Marton.

In a very strong Premier field, André Murray & John Wall (Rose Gardens) were fourth & fifth respectively behind three International players and either could have snatched third place. Lachlan Hughes (Wanganui) did well to achieve twelfth place.

In the Intermediate Grade, Melva Jones (Rose Gardens) was third. Wally Duncan (Wanganui) won the Primary Grade event.

Attached photo shows Wally Duncan (Wanganui) (left) winner of the Primary Grade with runner-up James Simons (right) of Rathkeale College, Masterton.. A classic case of experience versus youthful enthusiasm.



Wally being presented with the trophy by Michael Hardman (Manager).



John Christie (Bay of Plenty)(right) winner of the Premier event with Tony Stephens (Hawkes Bay)(left) runner up. Both are New Zealand representatives



Six of the best!

Duncan Dixon wins the NZ GC Open for the 6th time.



Full tournament report to follow in the January issue.

Orewa Croquet Club



Vice President, Elizabeth Harper, on the right, presents Julie Parry with her Golf Croquet Coaches Certificate and Badge. Julie, the Club President, is the first person to receive the Golf Croquet Coaches Certificate (level 1) under the new system.

On the 14th / 15th December Orewa held its Annual Golf Croquet Tournament, sponsored by Evelyn Page Retirement Village. A fine turnout and lovely weather ensured a great day was had by all.

The winners of the Doubles were Nelson Morrow And Sue Brodziak.

The winner of the Singles Competition was Bob Jackson.

Auckland Coaching

This is my second year as Auckland Croquet coach. I find it is best to plan most of my coaching for the region over the winter months which enables me to be free to play in tournaments during the croquet tournament season. Well that is the theory. There are 11 clubs in the Auckland Association so during my first winter I encouraged clubs to pair together and each session I would have 20-30 people turn up for the coaching. After each session almost everyone attending was excited because they for the first time were able to do a stroke or understand a move that had eluded them.

I have been constantly encouraged by the enthusiasm of participants and particularly when players I have considered far better than me have expressed enlightenment. I target specific areas. This winter just past my focus was on GC with particular attention to the draft GC laws. I also drew on material from Jarrod Coutts' coaching session the season earlier. While playing in AC interclub it has become obvious to me that 10-24 handicap players do not know how to use bisques effectively so a session on using bisques and a 4 ball break is planned for December.

I have also made considerable effort to attract school students into croquet. I have encouraged parents to join with their teenage children so have started Sunday afternoon coaching sessions at Epsom to which all new GC club members may come for coaching. This timing is practical for working parents. During these sessions I discuss a law and its implications along with practical coaching. I have a team of people who are able to fill in for me when I am absent for family reasons or at tournament and they follow the plans I provide.

During my first season as Association coach I spoke on the mental approach to the game. This opened up a whole field of discussion as

those distracting thoughts are a bane to all sports players, particularly in croquet. After one session a social psychologist was very simulated by these observations and has wanted me to pursue the topic further. I also drew on the basics of croquet, the steps that are valuable for all players to review from time to time ie grip, stalk, swing etc. It was really encouraging for me to hear Greg Bryant go over very similar material when he and Josh Smith toured the country last season.

This past winter I had an offer from another player to coach in one of the clubs in the Northern region of the Auckland Association. As this club has had a large number of new members and I have encouraged her to develop the play in that club. Providing regular and ongoing coaching is invaluable and to have someone who is able to provide this should only be encouraged.

I also have been coaching at Epsom Remuera club. The majority of these newcomers are in response to newspaper advertisements. Over the winter I decided to teach all learners, both GC and AC the various 1 and 2 ball strokes and introduce a 4 ball break over a series of weekly lessons. Most were only interested in playing GC but the occasional person has now turned up for an AC session. All were very excited when I taught them how to do a jump shot in my last session of the series.

I have found that not all people are able to execute a shot the same way so if one method proves unsatisfactory I suggest another. This works for the people who have been playing a long time as well as those new to croquet. My goal is to improve the overall standard of croquet both for the social player and for the competitive player. Both types of player have a valuable place in club activities.

Kathie Grant - Epsom Remuera Club

Regional News

Golf Croquet at Kaitaia

Kaitaia Croquet Club was the first in Northland to include the Golf version on a regular twice-weekly basis. There was one dedicated Golf Croquet Tournament a year, held out of season. Since then of course, many events were introduced and trophies purchased for the "Golfers".

The second Golf Croquet Handicap Singles held at Kaitaia in November and organised by Margaret Manning, was again very successful, with a full field of 24 players from the Northern Clubs. The three large lawns were split into six small greens, with double banking on each lawn. Those playing second colours started from corner two, which avoided most hold-ups. With 84 games to get through between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. the schedule was tight with only six minutes between games up to lunch-time. Club President Drago Yelavich had organised for local members to collect the score cards and bisque discs at the end of each game and then hand out cards and discs for subsequent games. Everybody started and stopped on the one bell with no extra time permitted.

Entrants were divided into three colour-coded groups of eight, so everyone had to play seven games within their section. With half-hour time-limit, the number of extra turns permitted was reduced. Quite often players ran out of time before running out of extra turns.

The target for the day was the maximum of 49 hoops from 7 games. Drago Yelavich, a 2 in Golf Croquet, achieved a total of 43 points. He was playing in the Pink Section either on lawn 2 or 2A, with Gillian Bond (Doubtless Bay and on

a 4) runner-up in the seniors with 38 points. The player with most hoops in the Red Section was George Smith (Doubtless Bay and on 3) but with only 27 hoops. Runner-up was Sue McLeod (Kerikeri) on 23. In the Yellow group, Whangarei's Eric Manning, on 5, was the winner on 38 hoops, with Kerikeri's Rilla Jeffs on 37. She received the runnerup prize after a countback with Elaine Allerby.

The junior prize-getters were Pink - Marilyn Williams (Kerikeri) 38, and Clyde Wood (Kaitaia) 32. Red section winner was Pam Ward (Kaitaia), 31 with Des Heath (Waipu) 28. Yellow section winner was Jeanette Carter (Waipu) with 37 and Kath Churms (Kaitaia) in second place with 25.

When the entrants had been sorted into groups, a tot up of their handicaps, which ranged from 2 to 10, came to 54 in each colour. Thus the draw could not have been more even. Despite this, those in the Red section ended up with fewer hoops throughout the day. But the different sort of format gave everyone a chance to be a winner.

The Senior and Junior with the highest number of hoops overall took home a trophy each. These folk were Drago Yelavich and Marilyn Williams, who both played in the high scoring Pink division.

Manurewa Croquet Club

The Manurewa Croquet Club entered a float in the Manurewa Santa Parade and was awarded the **FIRST PRIZE** of \$300, for best decorated float.



Champion N.Z. Athlete, Valerie Adams, presents the First Prize "Banner" to The Manurewa Croquet Club.



Her Most Gracious Majesty, The Queen of Hearts, and Miss Alice, ready to 'hit the road' for their big drive, accompanied by flamingos, hedgehogs, a pack of card soldiers, and assorted other livestock.

Kaikoura Croquet

A delve into the history of the Kaikoura Croquet Club, which has celebrated its 90th birthday, shows the little club has always been tenacious, seeing loyal players through the best part of a century despite constant battles to boost membership.

The Clubs first committee was formed in Sept 1923, at Takahanga Domain, with the annual sub set at 10/6d. Fundraising was carried out in

conjunction with a local bowling and a tennis club. In 1944 the club became associated with Canterbury. A new affiliation with Blenheim and Awatere became the Marlborough Association in 1963. Indoor croquet in the Trotting club building, during the winter months helped to keep skill levels up ready for the summer season.

Some 4 years later the club was moved to its present site (still in the Domain). An ex-army hut became the pavilion in 1939 which served until 1992 when the present clubroom was constructed.

In Dec 1998 the club celebrated its 75th anniversary with more than 40 people, many of whom dressed in 1920s attire to mark the occasion. Two years later, another highlight was seeing in the new millennium with games starting at 11.30 pm and midnight, under spotlight.

We may be few in number but more than keen to coach prospective players.



Photograph: Margaret Hamilton, Brenda Begbie, Marilyn Chambers, Doreen Tomlin, Jan Finlay & Erica O'Connor.

Margaret Hamilton, Erica O'Connor and Jan Findlay cut the anniversary cake



Manawatu Association

Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui Association Croquet

Wanganui/Rose Gardens Annual Golf Croquet Exchange for the Tyler-Gay Trophy First Leg 2013-2014

The first leg of this annual competition resulted in a tight win for Wanganui. Rose Gardens will have the home advantage for the second leg, later in the season and look to overcome Wanganui's narrow lead.

Wanganui 16, Rose Gardens 14

Wairarapa v Manawatu-Wanganui Annual Exchange

In an exciting day's croquet, Wairarapa and Manawatu-Wanganui Croquet Associations drew their annual Exchange 6-6 to share the trophy, previously held by Wairarapa.

The Rose Gardens Croquet Club Silver Fern Farms Golf Croquet Handicap Doubles Competition for the Patron's Trophy

It was a convincing result for Chris Reay & Robin Scott who, having been unbeaten in section play, comfortably beat Micki Tyler & Warren Hawke 7-3 in the final to win the Patron's Trophy.

Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui Association Croquet Interclub Competition Final Week 10

Having taken the lead in week 3 of this competition, Levin held it to the end, finishing a comfortable five points ahead of second-placed Marton who gained that position with a final 3-0 victory over Wanganui. This year's has been an excellent Association Croquet Interclub Competition and the clubs look forward to the Golf Croquet Interclub Competition starting in the New Year. Congratulations to Levin on retaining the Ida Wood Memorial Plate.



Jean Corbin Thomas, President of Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui is presenting the Ida Wood Memorial Plate to Ted Anderson, Captain of the Levin Team, winners of the CM-W AC Interclub Competition for 2013-2014. They also won it the previous season.

Please send us your news!

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