



October 2014

## This month

*The spring weather of glorious days and nice temperatures has been transported back to winter with cold and rain and severe weather warnings. Croquet players are a truly hardy bunch who are out there playing through it all. Tournament reports are coming in and we report on what we can.*

*It is with great sadness that we record the death of John Solomon – a true doyen of croquet. John Prince has written a tribute to him which is the last article for this newsletter.*

## From the Exec Report on the Annual General Meeting

A big thank you to all the delegates who came to Wellington to represent their association at the AGM. It was a really good weekend and some great interaction for all.

Firstly, the AGM dinner was another terrific success despite having problems with the datashow. It was great to hear about the MacRobertson Shield from the player's perspective. A big thanks to Aaron Westerby, Toby Garrison and Greg Bryant for their presentation. Due to these problems on the night we couldn't show Paddy Chapman's presentation until the next day. Thanks Paddy for going to the trouble of putting a presentation together from the UK and sending it in to the Executive Director.

Winner of the Awards:

President's Trophy for most new member: Makura Croquet Club from the West Coast

Huon Pine Bowl for runner up: Awamoa Gardens Croquet Club from South Canterbury  
Most Improved AC player: Edmund Fordyce from South Canterbury

Most Improved GC player: George Redpath from Taranaki

Volunteer of the Year: Chris Clarke from Canterbury

Player of the Year: Paddy Chapman from Canterbury (but based in the UK)

## Now to the nitty gritty of the AGM

### Remits

The Executive's remit to increase levies was approved unanimously.

Canterbury's remit to increase host club reimbursement was defeated (9 votes for, rest against)

Canterbury's remit to increase the handicap scale for AC was approved

Canterbury's remit to increase the handicap scale for GC was approved  
*(Both of these need to go to a CNZ handicapping committee to work out where the steps will fall)*

Auckland's remit to have a conversion table for GC players starting AC was defeated.

Auckland's remit to add wording to the GC regulations was approved.

Counties-Manukau's recommendation regarding Executive minutes was withdrawn

Hawkes Bay's recommendation regarding the name for NZ teams as "Black Mallets" was defeated

### **Voting for Executive members**

Lester O'Brien finished his term as Vice President and has retired. Lester did a short speech on his involvement in croquet and was thanked for his service on the Executive by the President.

There was only one nomination for Vice President and that was from existing Executive member Annie Henry of Nelson. She was therefore elected as Vice President.

In becoming Vice President, that left a vacancy for councillor. There was one nomination, that from Murray Goldfinch of Otago and he was duly elected. Congratulations Murray and we look forward to your contribution to the Executive.

### **Sunday, 12 October 2014 Session on Challenges that Associations/Clubs Face**

Facilitated by D. Annie Henry

An important part of strategic planning is to hear from the people who are closely connected with what is happening at the club and association levels. An hour was given to learn more about the challenges that the associations and clubs have while they are growing. The Executive was asked to sit with their association as observers (and participate where appropriate). The information collected will be used four ways.

First the information collected will be fed back to the Executive to exam the results in light of the CNZ Strategic Plan. CNZ will look at the priority challenges and explore to what extent they can provide support. Second, the Sport Development Officer, Greg Bryant, will be working with the associations as he visits them throughout the country. Challenges that an association (and clubs) face will be fed back to

Greg to help in his role of working with the associations. Third, the information generated can be taken back to the respective associations for further discussion and clarity. Fourth, associations could network with others who share the same challenges.

### **The Process and Results**

The first couple of minutes each person wrote what s/he saw as his/her association's challenges. Then they were divided into four groups. Each person shared the challenges and a recorder wrote them. They had time to discuss the challenges and share insights with each other. They selected the top 3 or 4 priorities from the list that was generated.

The next part of the process was for each group to share with the entire group what their challenges were. The top ones were recorded. After each group had an opportunity to report, the top 4 were selected and agreed upon as a first draft. They are:

- Finding administration at club and association levels. (People to serve.)
- Recruiting of members.
- Getting golf croquet players into tournaments
- Needing more umpires and referees

Others listed by the total group but not included in the top priorities were:

- Convert golf croquet players to association players
- Attract midlife members (part of recruitment listed above)
- Keep croquet in the public eye
- Get new players to play competitively.
- Accept young and old players (two groups who sometimes have difficulties being accepted at their stage of croquet life)
- Geographical challenge and culture of the area

Group Reports:

1. Bay of Plenty, Counties Manukau, Waikato, Manawatu-Wanganui
  - Conversion from GC to AC
  - Recruitment of members
  - Finding administrators
  - Finding AC referees
  - Having associations open to change
  - People resistant to change
  - Participation in tournaments
  - Affiliation of members
  - Publicity through media
  - School participation
  - People still working
  
2. South Taranaki, Marlborough, Otago, Canterbury
  - Trying to get GC players into tournaments
  - Attracting younger players, midlife
  - Trying to get GC players to try AC
  - Keeping players in the sport
  - Process of attracting student players
  - Keeping croquet in the public eye
  - NZQA or other certified try for green keeping
  
3. Auckland, Thames Valley, Southland, Wellington
  - Need for A grade members to travel outside Association in teams
  - How to play interclub w/no 18-24 players
  - GC coach has a class of 42, which is too many
  - How do we increase numbers of AC players
  - Need to get new recruits to play competitively (social players)
  - Need for refs/umps & retain them
  - Fighting Councils for land - need money

- Making social players to compete
- Keep cost of lawns down
  - i. Can CNZ get a deal for fertiliser, etc?

4. Taranaki , Hawkes Bay, South Canterbury, Nelson
  - Lack of referees and umpires
  - Teaching new people the rules
  - Demographic: young – old
  - Lawn space approaching capacity
  - Geographic challenge w/in association
  - Disparity within Association: size, culture, growth
  - Attracting young players
  - Succession issues – officers
  - Yearbook editing database
  - Apathy among members towards new ideas
  - Acceptability of students

### **CNZ Awards & Qualifications:**

Gold Award – Graeme Fisher (Plimmerton)  
 Silver – Andre Murray (Rose Gardens)  
 Bronze - Jacqui Anderson (Takapuna)

### **New Golf Croquet referees**

Hawkes Bay - Jayne Powis, Colleen Reynolds, Lynette Grant, Margaret Grant

Auckland – Jan Butcher & David Butcher

Northland – Jean Tafa

### **Sports Development Officer**

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Greg is out around the country doing what a Sports Development Officer does – moving around the clubs and Associations helping with coaching and club development.

We have had this wonderful feedback which we are sure will excuse Greg from any written contributions this month.

*"Hi Murray*

*Just letting you know that we found both the AC and GC coaching sessions at Henderson awesome! Everyone found it most enlightening and useful and various myths were laid to rest.*

*Regards*

*Pauline Ereckson,*

*Secretary"*

## **Croquet New Zealand Tournaments**

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### **Saturday 8 & Sunday 9 November 2014**

The NI Golf Croquet Grade Championships  
Counties-Manukau Association at Pukekohe

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The SI Golf Croquet Grade Championships  
South Canterbury Association at Aorangi CC  
Timaru

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### **Wednesday 19 to Sunday 23 November 2014**

The 29<sup>th</sup> New Zealand Veterans' Championship  
Southern Region Championship  
West Coast Croquet Association at Rangimarie  
CC, Westport

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The 29<sup>th</sup> New Zealand Veterans' Championship  
Northern Region Championship  
Thames Valley Croquet Association at Thames  
and Waihi

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The 29<sup>th</sup> New Zealand Veterans' Championship  
Central Region Championship  
Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui  
at Feilding (AC) and Rose Gardens (GC)

**Event 1:** AC Championship Singles.

Open to all (played on Wednesday  
& Thursday)

**Event 2:** AC Handicap Singles (played on  
Wednesday & Thursday)

Players may enter for only one of  
events 1 & 2

**Event 3:** AC Handicap Doubles,  
combined HC 10+ (played on Friday)

Events 1, 2 and 3 played at

Feilding

**Event 4:** GC Handicap Doubles,  
combined HC 10+ (played on Friday)

Players may enter for only one of  
events 3 & 4

**Event 5:** GC Levels Singles. Open to all  
(played on Saturday & Sunday)

**Event 6:** GC Handicap Singles, HC 6+  
(played on Saturday & Sunday)

Players may enter for only one of events 5 & 6  
Events 4, 5 and 6 played at Rose Gardens  
Play on Wednesday – Friday starts at 8.30AM.  
Play on Saturday-Sunday starts at 9.00AM.

**Players must be 60 years of age or older at the  
start of the tournament.**

**Manager:** Michael Hardman, 19 Winston  
Avenue, Palmerston North 4410, Phone: 06 353  
5980, [mjhardman@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mjhardman@xtra.co.nz)

**Other details are on page 286 of the yearbook.**

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**Friday 28 November 2014**

**Canterbury Croquet Association**

Yvonne Yeates GC Invitation

Duncan Dixon GC Invitation

Gordon Smith GC Invitation

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**91<sup>st</sup> Annual North Island Championships  
Wednesday 3 December to Sun 7 December**

Hosted by Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui at  
Wanganui & Marton

**Men's and Women's Championships**  
**Wednesday 10 December to Sun 14 December**

Hosted by Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui at Rangatira CC, Dannevirke

**Other Golf Croquet tournaments in November 2014**

**Monday 17 November 2014**

Marlborough Veteran's Tournament

**Sunday 23 November 2014**

Canterbury Association GC G grade Championship

**Saturday 29 November 2014**

Whakatane Weekend GC Tournament

**Association Croquet Tournaments in November 2014**

**Saturday 1 November 2014**

Fielding 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Tournament

**Waikanae Open Association Singles**

**Sat 1<sup>st</sup> and Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2014**

**Mon 5 November 2014**

Paeroa CC 67<sup>th</sup> annual tournament

**10 November 2014**

Rotorua CC Annual Tournament

**Thursday 13 November 2014**

Canterbury Association AC Open Championship

**23 & 24 November 2014**

Whakatane Croquet Club

Association Croquet Tournament

Handicap Doubles (23 Nov)

Championship Singles (24 Nov )

**Regional News**

**Northland Croquet Association**

Doubtless Bay Croquet Club situated in the Far North in has 4 large lawns just over the road from the sea in Cable Bay, a beautiful setting for

a croquet club. We recently celebrated our 21st Birthday in conjunction with Northland Croquet's Opening Day. Unfortunately the day

was wet but indoor quizzes and games and the catered lunch was enjoyed by all who attended.



*Life Members Betty Dawson (left) and Freda Archibald cutting the 21st cake*



*Northland President Godfrey Rogers running the first hoop for Northland Croquet*



*Life Member Betty Dawson running the first hoop for Doubtless Bay Croquet Club*

**Report**

Even the heavy rain (which makes the greens at Cable Bay unplayable) for the Doubtless Bay Croquet Club's opening day wasn't enough to prevent the large turnout from having a grand old time.

Players came from all over the province to take part in an event designed to double as the official opening of the Northland Croquet 2014/15 season as well as celebrating the DBCC's 21st Birthday. Unfortunately the wet,

early spring conditions – which had also affected the opening days of two other Far North clubs, Kaitaia and Kerikeri – meant play had to be cancelled.

However the President of Northland Croquet, Godfrey Rogers, was still able to run the first hoop for the season on the water-soaked greens while DBCC president Gillian Bond noted the morning passed quickly with quizzes and fun activities, as well as catching up with all those who had travelled from Takapuna, Waipu, Whangarei, Kensington, Kerikeri and Kaitaia clubs to attend the occasion.

“The catered lunch was excellent followed with the cake cutting by our two life members, Betty Dawson and Freda Archibald” said Gillie, adding a big thank you to Lynn Hill for presenting a beautiful cake along with her organisational skills with all the catering. Thanks also went to club members for their work on lawns and gardens prior to the day, “pity they could not be admired and appreciated due to the rain”.

Naturally the day was a chance to reflect on the past 21 years, Gillie noting the small club by the seaside had been founded in September 1993 by Shirley Patterson and her late husband Don. The club at cable Bay has grown from small beginnings to the top-grade facility it is today. Betty Dawson recalled picking up stones as they played on extremely rough lawns and said she watched the club rooms grow each week while being built by Don Patterson, members, friends and with a lot of help from local businesses. Today the club is thriving and although still small compared with some clubs’ memberships in New Zealand; we are a generous friendly group who enjoy playing and working together.

If you are holidaying in the Far North why not come in for a game. We play on Wednesday and Saturday at 9.30 am, contact Gillian Bond 09 4087995 or Beryl Smith 09 4061320

## Croquet Auckland

### CROQUET AUCKLAND OPENING DAY SATURDAY 30TH AUGUST 2014

Despite the weather forecast we went ahead with the plans for Opening Day. There were 12 or so Golf Croquet players and 12 Association Players. David Butcher organised GC and had them playing 2 games of 45 minutes, changing partners, and 19 hoops which they all enjoyed. AC played 21/2 hours Tasmanian with a maximum of 4 hoops and alternate turns which enabled all to play. The weather was very windy and there were showers but not enough to stop play.

There was a very delicious shared lunch enjoyed by all. Aaron Westerby was the guest of honour. Aaron was the Captain of the New Zealand MacRobertson Shield Team which won the event earlier this year. He was introduced by CA President Maida Beeton who told the players a little of Aaron’s personal croquet history and of the MacRobertson Shield which is the most prestigious association croquet trophy.



Aaron surprised us all by bringing the MacRobertson Shield with him which was absolutely the icing on the cake as none of us had ever seen it apart from in magazines. He then spent about half an hour telling us about the event and how his team played which was very fascinating for both codes present.

After that despite the rain he ran the first hoop and the 2014/15 season was declared open. Unfortunately afternoon play had to be abandoned and everyone went home full of enthusiasm about hearing Aaron and seeing the MacRobertson Shield



## Orewa Croquet Club

### Opening Day a success

A rainy day wasn't going to deter the members of the Orewa Croquet Club from having their 2014/2015 season Opening Day on Saturday (06 Sep). Members had a great time at the luncheon with the 'first hoop' for the season being run by patron Leone Salt. The Club is one of the biggest in New Zealand with over 80 members. Both Association Croquet and Golf Croquet are played on the four lawns at Hatton Rd.

The Club will be hosting a number of events during the Season, notably the ACA 110<sup>th</sup> Annual AC Champs Doubles in November, the 5<sup>th</sup> Evelyn Page Retirement Village GC Tournament in early December, the 24<sup>th</sup> Maygrove Retirement Village AC Tournament in mid-January and the ACA 110<sup>th</sup> Annual 0-3 and 4-9 Singles in late March. Interest in croquet in the community has also been raised by an exclusive story in the local Rodney Times including a full page photo bonanza in the paper a week later featuring the Opening Day activities.



Club President Julie Parry says "We are very proud of the success of our club members in these tournaments, where members of all various skill levels can have an equal opportunity in enjoying the game." Recently the Club has noticed an increase in the number of ex-golfers taking up the sport as the playing conditions on the lawns (or greens) and skills required to make the hoops (like putting) are similar as is the handicapping system.



*President Julie Parry (right) watches Patron Leone Salt run the first hoop of the 2014/2015 croquet season*

## Croquet

### Competition Success

A clean sweep of all competitors has meant that Orewa Croquet Club members Pixie Jones-Meredew and Chris Smith have won the City of Auckland Trophy doubles competition held recently at St Heliers Croquet Club. Pixie and Chris qualified to represent the Orewa Croquet Club by winning the Club's Opening Season competition.

They competed over two days against quality teams from around the Auckland Association region.

Pixie said "The games were tight and gaining position on the lawns and making the best use of a mix of tactics, technique and cunning meant that we prevailed"

The pair won all their games during Club competition and remained unbeaten at the Trophy event.



*Maida Beetson, ACA President after presenting the City of Auckland Centennial Trophy to Pixie Jones-Meredew and Chris Smith*

### **Pt Chevalier's Annual Labour Weekend Tournament**

30 players from all round the Auckland region, braved cold winds and traffic chaos to take part in Pt Chevalier's annual Labour Weekend tournament ~ a Golf Croquet Singles and Doubles event sponsored by BLOOM HEARING. Not only was the bowling club running a tournament next door with 200 players, but TV2's 'The Block' was being filmed one street away, which brought the motorway to a standstill as 5000 eager fans tried to get to Pt Chevalier and park nearby.

Although quite cold, we were favoured by no rain and an excellent group of players on both days. David Butcher was Manager, Jan Butcher and Jon Thackray were referees. Our groundsman Kim Osborne gave us some very good lawns to play on.

We played 5 rounds of untimed games each day (many lasting over the hour), with each game

being a well fought tussle and some very fine croquet to watch.

Club President Hilary Salmons, supported by a great band of helpers, kept players well fed and watered, with hot savouries and cups of tea and coffee very much needed on the Sunday.

Particularly pleasing was the fact that our newest member, Andy Ujjainker, playing in only his first croquet tournament, gained third place in the doubles. Andy is a media design student, who has put first class cricket to one side in order to play croquet.

Thank you to BLOOM HEARING for the generous prizes, and thank you to all who took part, both players and supporters, for a great Tournament.





## Results



### Singles.

1. Ronnie Richardson (Takapuna)
2. Pam Knight (Takapuna)
3. Anne Griffin (Mt Albert)

### Doubles.

1. John Wood, Precille Harrison (Pakuranga)
2. Joeleen and Jeff Sunderland (Pakuranga)
3. Anne Griffin (Mt Albert), Aniket Ujjainkar (Pt. Chevalier)

## Wellington Croquet Association

*Remember this photo?*



*Wainuiomata Croquet Club arson May 2014*

November 2014 the club rooms now look like this



Since the fire that destroyed part of our club house in May Members have been overwhelmed by the support and generosity of the community of our small valley, Hutt City council and the Wellington Croquet Association Inc.

Thankfully we had insurance and we are happy to be able back in our club house and looking forward to the season ahead.

*(Wainuiomata Club Members)*



*We applaud the efforts of all involved in making such a lovely club rooms again. This is especially important to Wainuiomata as it was in time for them to celebrate their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Congratulations to the Club and its Members Ed.*

## Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui

**Palmerston North**

**Takaro Croquet Club Association Croquet**

**10 bisques and over Championship Singles for the Suzuki Trophy**

**Final:** Bryan Barlow (Wellington) bt Stewart Pye (Wairarapa) 19-14

**Championship Doubles**

**Final:** Shirley Rees and Melva Jones (Rose Gardens) bt Josh Smith & Max Charlton (Rose Gardens) 13-11.

## Golf Croquet Interclub Competition

**Round 2**

**Rose Gardens 5, Wanganui 3**

**Marton 3, Feilding 5**

**Tararua 4, Levin 4**

**Points to date:** Feilding 12(+28), Rose Gardens 9(+13), Tararua 8(-2), Wanganui 7(-9), Marton 7(-14), Levin 5(-16).

Another win by Feilding kept them firmly at the head of the table.

### Round 3

A big home win by Rose Gardens over Marton, put it on top of the table, equal on points with Feilding, who drew with Tararua, but slightly ahead on net hoops. Tararua shade Wanganui for third on net hoops and net hoops are all that separate Levin & Marton.

**Feilding 4, Tararua 4**  
**Levin 3, Wanganui 5**  
**Rose Gardens 7, Marton 1**

**Points to date:** Rose Gardens 16 (+33), Feilding 16 (+30), Tararua 12 (-4), Wanganui 12 (-7) Levin 8 (-18), Marton 8 (-34).

### Round 4

A good 6-2 win by Rose Gardens over Feilding put them firmly in place at the head of the table on 22, 4 points ahead of Feilding who retained second place, with 18 points. Tararua and Wanganui are close behind on 16 points.

**Feilding 2, Rose Gardens 6**  
**Marton 3, Levin 5**  
**Tararua 4, Wanganui 4**

**Points to date** (net hoops in brackets): Rose Gardens 22 (+48), Feilding 18 (+15), Tararua 16 (-5), Wanganui 16 (-6), Levin 13 (-14), Marton 11 (-38).

### Week 5

Good away wins, 5-3 by Feilding over Wanganui and 6-2 by Levin over Rose Gardens tightened up the top of the table points standings considerably, with Feilding now trailing Rose Gardens by a only single point. Tararua is also close behind. At this exciting stage, the competition will take a break and return for the final five rounds in January/February. The Association Croquet Interclub Competition starts next week with five rounds before Christmas.

**Rose Gardens 2, Levin 6**  
**Takaro 6, Marton 2**  
**Wanganui 3, Feilding 5**

**Points to date** (net hoops in brackets): Rose Gardens 24 (40), Feilding 23 (15), Tararua 21 (10), Wanganui 19 (-6), Levin 19 (-6), Marton 14 (-53).

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### Rose Gardens Croquet Club Spring Golf Croquet Tournament

The Spring GC Tournament was held in lovely warm sunny windless weather for a change! The Open Level Singles Event for The Gordon Smith Salver was closely contested with the final result being decided in the last two games between André Murray (RG), the Title Defender and Lachlan Hughes, (Wanganui), last year's Runner up and the game between Josh Smith (RG) and Peter Batchelor (Taranaki).

André Murray was the outright winner with one game loss, Runner Up was Josh Smith with 2 losses, and Lachlan Hughes, third with 3 losses.

The spectators were treated to some great croquet played with some hard hitting long roquets and amazing hoops made from a distance.

Margaret Snelling, Club President, presented the trophies and certificates

*In the 4+ Levels Singles for The President's Trophy, the winner was David Ward of Hawkes Bay and the runner up was Chris Reay of RG.*



*The 8+ Singles for the Rose Gardens Cup was won by Annette Reyland (Hawkes Bay), Runner-up: Jez Reeves (Hawkes Bay)*

**Open Levels  
Singles for the  
Gordon Smith  
Salver**

**Winner:** André  
Murray (Rose  
Gardens),  
**Runner-up:** Josh  
Smith (Rose  
Gardens)



Three of the women contestants Colleen Reynolds, Judy Kermode and Jayne Powis (all HB) who played in the Open have been selected among others to represent New Zealand at The World Women's Golf Croquet Tournament in Cairo in November

**Rose Gardens Croquet Club  
Association Croquet Handicap Singles  
Competition for the Gordon Smith Cup**

A good-sized field of eight contested this, the first Association Croquet Tournament of the season for Rose Gardens. Despite the changeable weather, some good croquet was played with André Murray and Michael Hardman being unbeaten in their respective sections. However, the Final was all one-way with teenager Murray defeating Hardman 26-1, in less than an hour.

**Winner:** André Murray, **Runner-up:** Michael Hardman

"Eyes on the ball"



Veronica Oliver, right, from Palmerston North keeps an eye on Hawkes Bay's Jez Reeves in their match at the Rose Gardens Croquet Club

Spring Golf Croquet tournament during the weekend."

The games were double banked and patiently waiting for this hoop to be made after a fair old tussle, are,

Left: Rachel Hughes, Wanganui, and Wendy Person, Hawkes Bay.

*Photo reprinted with the kind permission of Fairfax Media and the Manawatu Standard - Monday October 13/2014 pg 14.*

*Photo Grant Matthew/FAIRFAX.NZ*

## **Croquet South Canterbury**

### **Centenary Celebrations**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of October, 2014, the Aorangi Croquet Club in Timaru celebrated the fact that our Club has been in existence for 100 years. As the saying goes 'doesn't time fly when you are having fun'!

We had already had a lunch in June which was closer to the date of the Century, but not conducive to playing croquet at that time of the year. So the beginning of October was chosen for an outdoor celebration and we were blessed with dry weather. We actually survived a terrifying thunderstorm, followed by a very heavy hailstorm on the Friday night, but thankfully the Saturday dawned bright and clear. Most of the members and many of our invited guests arrived in costumes which were in keeping with 1914, and we had a great day.

The Mayor came and congratulated us on being still very active and commented on the grounds looking extremely well groomed. We had a 'posh' afternoon tea. Cucumber sandwiches of course. The ladies had to think carefully about having to hit the balls 'Side -saddle' coping with their long skirts. On the Sunday more people came from other croquet clubs in South Canterbury and we did what we like doing best, PLAYING !

We looked at many photos of days gone by and remembered people who made it possible for us to be celebrating. A collection of photos taken

on those days will be put in to albums and who knows, they may be looked at in another 100 years! So croquet is alive and well, with two other Clubs moving closer to their 100 years too.

Photos of the event are supplied by Jan Good

*Croquet NZ congratulates the Aorangi Club on its centenary.*



*We also congratulate the Khandallah Croquet Club in Wellington on its centenary which is to be celebrated on 16 November 2014. Ed.*

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## Tournament Results

### Canterbury Croquet Association

#### MAGAK Tournament Labour Weekend

The MAGAK event started in 2007. Sponsored by Kathie and Malcolm Grant, it comprises one days coaching followed by a 3 day open event. This year's event was held in the South Island for the first time at United. Jenny and Chris Clarke provided the coaching on Friday and then 16 players ranging from -4 to 6 played a Swiss event with prizes in different handicap ranges on Sat to Mon.

The temperature varied from 22 to 8 degrees and the lawns were running around 10-11 seconds until Monday's rain. Jenny Clarke was fast out of the blocks, recording a number of triples, but suffered a defeat to Peter Couch, who after taking 4.5 hours to beat a Tony O'Donnell (handicap 6) in the first game, managed to complete a tpo to beat Jenny. Elsewhere, Richard Kimberley reached 5/5 before dropping a game to Geoff Duckett and Kathie Grant moved into contention on 3/4 after beating Jenny. Ed Cunningham was playing plenty of games and had just two losses, so was another possible winner.



**Losses for Peter** and Kathie on Monday morning meant that only 3 players could win. Richard played Jenny in the final round and sealed his biggest ever tournament win to finish with 7/8 and take \$700 in prize money. Geoff Duckett was runner-up with 6/8. Best 0 to 2 was Peter Couch. Best 2+ was won by one of the higher handicap players, Ian Campbell who played particularly well during the event. Graeme Fisher won the prize for most points gained on handicap card not to win another prize.

Many thanks to Kathie and Malcolm for bringing this great event South.

For those of you on mid handicaps thinking about whether to play in some open events, I'll finish with a comment from Ian Campbell, one of the highest handicap players "thank you for urging me to enter the tournament this past weekend. I wouldn't have given it a second thought as being out of my league".

*Chris Clarke – Manager*

Winner: Richard Kimberley (United)

Runner-up: Geoff Duckett (United)

#### **26 – 27 September 2014**

##### **United September Open Weekend**

Winner: Michael Wright (Wellington)

Runner-up: Jenny Clarke (United)

##### **Claudelands Open Singles Champs**

Winner: Hemi Mellars (Morrinsville)

Runner-up: Geoff Young (Kereone)

#### **4-5 October 2014**

##### **Marewa Princess Alexandra AC Open**

Winner: John Muir (West End, Taranaki)

Runner-up Harry Murrell (Carterton, Wairarapa)

#### **18-19 October 2014**

##### **CNZ Gold & Silver Mallets**

Winner: Brian Bullen (Paraparaumu)

Runner-up: Peter Filbee (Hawera)

*This event had a big setback as it was discovered only days before play that the second lawn at Carterton was unplayable. As it was considered too late to move the event to another venue, the field was limited to 8 players and only the first 8 entries were accepted. It was a mixed weekend weather wise but enjoyable none the less.*

#### **4-5 October 2014**

##### **Marton Open Weekend**

Winner: David Wickham (Masterton)

Runner-up: Peter Filbee (Hawera)

*After a wonderful fine Friday it rained overnight and the first challenge to the players were lawns covered in work casts.*

#### **17 October 2014**

##### **Morrinsville 9<sup>th</sup> Annual GC tournament**

Level Singles

Winner: Hemi Mellars (Morrinsville)

Runner-up: John Christie (Morrinsville)

#### **18- 19 October 2014**

##### **Otago Handicap Doubles**

Winners: David Jackson & Frances Casey

Runners-up: Keith Cloughley & Molly Duncan

#### **22-23 October 2014**

##### **Bay of Plenty 56<sup>th</sup> Annual AC tournament**

Open Championship singles

Winner: Ross Hamblyn (Whakatane)

Runner-up: Steve Clarke (Whakatane)

#### **25-27 October 2014**

##### **Croquet Nelson GC tournament**

Handicap Singles:

Winner: Lawrie Cooper (Richmond)

Joint Runners-up: Mike Speak & Wayne Wooff (Riwaka)

Handicap Doubles

Winners: Marion Prentice & Alan Winwood (Nelson/Hinemoa)

Runners-up: Lawrie Cooper & Shirley Gabrielson (Richmond)

Manawatu-Wanganui AC Championships

*Play was abandoned because of wet lawns with only 2 of the scheduled rounds of post-section play completed.*

The results of these tournaments have been extracted from [www.croquetscores.com](http://www.croquetscores.com). It would be great if managers, as well as entering the scores could give a comment on the tournament which we can then put in the newsletter to make the events more appealing. Thanks. Ed

## Tournament Management

### Preparing for Weather Disruption

Many of us have played in tournaments that were severely disrupted by wet weather and unplayable lawns. It's a lot worse if you are the manager and have to sort out what to do!

Losing the first day of a tournament scheduled for at least two days is generally straightforward. There should be a suitable format for the time left, although it may require Swiss (especially for AC); check the table in the booklet **Managing a Croquet Tournament**. In many ways a total washout of the tournament is even easier because you just send everyone home, as we had to do a few years ago at Rose Gardens.

Where it gets tricky is when you have played a full day and the deluge comes overnight so that you have to start late on the second day and can't fit in the planned number of rounds. This happened a couple of years ago when I was managing a 2-day GC tournament. Although two events could be handled fairly easily, the other was planned as an 11-round round robin and there wasn't time to play all the last 5 rounds. Whatever way I split the field into two sections, some first day games wouldn't count and we would need to fit in a few section play games before the two section winners could be found and play the final.

Since then I have thought about how a manager could prepare for the situation where the weather forecast is bad but significant loss of time on day 2 is not certain. The result is a series of draws similar to those under **Some**

**Selected Draws for Seeded or Random Section Play in Managing a Croquet Tournament**, but which can be split into two sections if necessary part way through a tournament. For example, the draw for 12 players below can be split into two sections of 6 with the first 5 rounds counting as section play.

Players ADEHJM go into Section 1 and BCFGKL into Section 2.

Day	Lawns			
1	1	2	3	4
	5	6		
Round 1	DJ CK	EM BG	AH FL	
Round 2	BL AM	FK DH	CG EJ	
Round 3	HM GL	AJ CF	DE BK	
Round 4	GK HJ	CL DM	BF AE	
Round 5	AD BC	EH KL	JM FG	
Round 6	BJ AL	CM DG	FH EK	

Day	Lawns			
2	1	2	3	4
	5	6		
Round 7	BM EG	DL FJ	CH AK	
Round 8	DK BH	CJ AG	FM EL	
Round 9	CE KM	AF HL	BD GJ	
Round 10	GM AC	HK BE	JL DF	
Round 11	AB GH	CD JK	EF LM	

I have produced similar draws for 10, 14 and 16 players. Contact me if you would like to know more ([mjhardman@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mjhardman@xtra.co.nz)).

Michael Hardman

### **Miscellaneous**

In the early 1950s Members from the Makara Croquet Club, Greymouth were on the way to play interclub with Westport. They were going to the event by railcar. En route they experienced a slip on the line. Gallant railroad workers carried the Greymouth team (including one lady of very ample proportions) across the slip to a waiting bus, to continue their journey, play their inter-club matches and to return by the same means of transport.

We do not know who won the match but the railway workers took the day!!

(Contributed by Joan Robertson Punga Club, Dunedin)

The Executive Director has recently planted out a vineyard in the Wairarapa – near Carterton. He already has an olive grove. Is he about to learn how to bake bread?



### ***A Special Thank you from your Editor***

*In the reports to the Annual General Meeting there were many kind and supportive words for Croquet Matters. At the Saturday evening dinner, the Executive Director on behalf of the Council gave me a gorgeous bouquet of flowers. I photographed them so you could all see the pleasure I am still enjoying from them. I have enjoyed writing Croquet Matters and look forward to continuing to do so for some*

*time to come. It is bringing the clubs and Associations together which can only go to strengthen our beloved sport.*

*None of the work could have been achieved without help from Murray, Greg and Annie Henry as well as club, Association and players ideas, contributions and encouragement.*

*Thank you for everything*

*Pamela George*



### **JOHN W. SOLOMON**

It is with much sadness, but also with many many happy memories that I remember a very dear croquet friend John Solomon, who passed away this month.

From my earliest croquet days at NaeNae Croquet club under Ashley Heenan's tutelage John's name was frequently mentioned by Ashley, usually in the context of something a bit flashy I did on the court, "That might be all very well but you wouldn't last 5 minutes against Solomon". John and Ashley had become friends when Ashley was a musical student in London, sharing both an interest in croquet and music. John was a fine clarinettist and could well have had a career as a professional musician, but as John's mother Pat once told me neither were much as pianists. She had to endure them both hammering out some of Ashley's compositions on the Solomon's pianos!

John started croquet at a young age playing on a lawn in his parent's garden, the mallets were as tall as he was so he invented a unique grip, both

sets of knuckles facing forward, that allowed a small schoolboy to swing one of them. It became known worldwide as the "Solomon" grip. His mother was a member at Roehampton and soon John was cycling down to the club to play. With little tournament experience at age 19 he was selected to play for England in the 1950 MacRobertson Test Series to be held in New Zealand.

He played with much distinction throughout the tests and also won the NZ Doubles Championship with Humphrey Hicks and much to the amazement of all the NZ Open Singles. A feat he was to repeat in 1963 this time winning the doubles with Patrick Cotter. In all he won 48 Championship titles, including the C.A. Open Singles, Men's Singles, and Doubles 10 times each. President's Cup (Best 8 or 10) 9 times, Champion of Champions 4 from 4, and the Mixed Doubles once. He represented England or Great Britain in five MacRobertson Shield Test series, and was the Captain in 1969 and 74. In the 60's peeling finishes were often not recorded with results, so in 1962 when John won all 14 games he played in the President's Cup Maurice Reckitt simply reported, that although he didn't keep count John appeared to complete all his games with a triple peel. He was the first player I knew to attempt sextuple peels and although he never completed one in a match, in 1969 he succeeded in a friendly at the Hastings Croquet club in partnership with David Curtis against Arthur Ross and Frank Bennett. He was very active in Croquet administration starting as a member of the C.A. Council at age 20, he served for 49 years and during this time he was President for 22 years. He fostered Croquet internationally presenting the Solomon trophy for an annual competition between the C.A. and the U.S.C.A.

One very fond memory I have is of a sunny afternoon at Hurlingham, the day of the club picnic in 1986. Prior to the series the visiting MacRobertson Shield players had been invited to take part and help full the croquet courts, so I asked Bernard Neal if he could persuade John

to come out of retirement and partner Bernard against Ashley and myself. Paul Skinley and Graham Beale asked if they could be excused from playing so they could watch John Solomon. They arrived to watch complete with a bottle of champagne, not to be out done John ordered two for the players and we enjoyed the most delightful three games of croquet I've ever had the privilege of playing. Paul kindly remarked that it was simply beautiful croquet.

For me he was the greatest and most complete player to ever swing a mallet, the greatest in every sense of the word great, to watch John Solomon playing croquet was like listening to a favourite piece of music.

John Prince ONZM  
Life Member  
Croquet New Zealand



*John Solomon at Hurlingham, England 1986*



*John Prince, Ashley Heenan OBE and John Solomon at Hurlingham, England 1986*



## *New Zealand A vs NZ B Teams*

Over the weekend 11 & 12 October 2014 up and coming players were put into teams with some more experience players to make two teams NZ A and NZ B. This is one of the ways of promoting new blood for forthcoming international events such as the Trans-Tasman Exchange and the 2017 MacRobertson Shield.

### **NZ A Team**

Greg Bryant  
Chris Shilling

Steve Jones  
Edmund Fordyce

Mike Crashley

### **NZ B Team**

Aiken Hakes  
Peter Filbee

Paul Skinley  
Brian Bullen

Michael Wright

### **Results:**

NZ A v B	Tests			Games		Hoops		
	Wins	Losses	Draws	Wins	Losses	For	Against	Net
NZ B Team	1	0	0	13	12	475	441	34
NZ A Team	0	1	0	12	13	441	475	-34



# 2014 COACHING PROGRAMME

## UPPER NORTH ISLAND

14 October 2014	Northland	Doubtless Bay
20 October 2014	Northland	Whangarei
22 October 2014	Auckland	Carlton
23 October 2014	Auckland	Henderson
24 October 2014	Counties-Manukau	Pukekohe
25 October 2014	Counties-Manukau	Manurewa
26 October 2014	Waikato-King Country	Claudelands
27 October 2014	Thames Valley	Waihi
28 October 2014	Bay of Plenty	Whakatane
29 October 2014	Bay of Plenty	Katikati

## CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND

6 November 2014	Wellington	Pimmerton
7 November 2014	Wellington	Wellington
8 November 2014	Wairarapa	Masterton
10 November 2014	Hawkes Bay	Te Mata
11 November 2014	Manawatu-Wanganui	TBA
12 November 2014	South Taranaki	Park
13 November 2014	Taranaki	New Plymouth

## SOUTH ISLAND

18 November 2014	West Coast	Rangimarie
20 November 2014	Nelson	Richmond
21 November 2014	Marlborough	AM Brooklyn
21 November 2014	Marlborough	PM Blenheim
22 November 2014	Canterbury	TBA
23 November 2014	Canterbury	TBA
24 November 2014	South Canterbury	Geraldine
25 November 2014	South Canterbury	Waimate
26 November 2014	Otago	Forbury Park
27 November 2014	Southland	Winton
28 November 2014	Otago	Queenstown

## ALL VENUES

8:30am - 12:30pm,  
GOLF CROQUET COACHING

1:00pm - 5:00pm  
ASSOCIATION CROQUET COACHING

\$10 each per session or \$15 for both

Please register with your  
Association Secretary

*please note: Clubs may charge a \$5.00 fee for light refreshments and clubhouse use*



*"The first session on Golf Croquet was an eye opener for me!"*

*"I learnt a lot  
about tactics which had never occurred to me before"*

*"I've already observed folk practising their new learnt skills"*