



# Cammeray Croquet Club



## NEWSLETTER August 2010

<http://www.cammeray-croquet.org.au/>

### Cammeray Wins Bronze Pennants – Again

Cammeray has won the Croquet NSW Bronze Pennant for the second year running. Congratulations to the team of Warren Yates (captain), Peter George, Graham Maynard, Sue Nicholas, Georgie Ofner and David Surridge and coach Dennis Faggotter. In their final round robin match, the return match against Sutherland, the team made a clean sweep in spite of some nervous moments towards the end of the doubles game. This ensured that they won the “southern division”, and earned the right to play “northern division” winners, Manly, in the final.

In a closely-fought final played at Croquet NSW headquarters at Tempe, Georgie Ofner went to an early lead in her singles game, then watched her Manly opponent, Annette du Preez, gradually get back into the game before Georgie ran out the winner by three hoops. In the other singles game, David Surridge lost his singles game to Andrew Morrison of Manly by a single hoop, after having unintentionally pegged out one of his balls. In a nail-biting finish to the doubles, Peter George (partnered by Graham Maynard) pegged his ball out just after the bell to take us to a one point lead. David Gibson from Manly (partnered by his wife Bernie) attempted a peg-out from close to hoop 1 to take the game to golden hoop, missing narrowly to give Cammeray the game and the match.



The team after winning their block against Sutherland



Peter in the final against Manly



David playing against Sutherland



Georgie pegging out against Sutherland



The Manly team

## **New Members**

At its July meeting, your committee accepted nominations for six new members, Justin Bobyn, Susan Boyd, Ray Kidd, Margaret O'Brien, Kerri Phillips and Justin Zelter. They are all recent graduates from Neil Hardie's beginner coaching sessions, and we welcome them to the club. Many of them are taking part in beginner games (along with other recent new members) on Tuesday afternoons from 1.30 pm to 4 pm, currently using both lawns. Several experienced players are helping out by attending these sessions to offer advice on shot selection and tactics, and the new members taking part are quickly improving their understanding of the game.

## **Cammeray Tournaments**

### **1. Bronze Championship**

This competition is well advanced, with one player (David SurrIDGE) having played all his games, three wins from three games, to emerge as the winner in Block A. Well done, David – enjoy your new handicap of 14. There are still games to be played in both blocks, with no clear winner yet emerging in Block B. Semi-finals will be played early in September, with the final set for a Saturday morning later that month.

### **2. Silver Championship**

This competition is less well advanced than the bronze, with only four games having been played so far. The final will be played at the same time as the Bronze Championship final, followed by a barbeque for all club members. More details next month.

### **3. Future Events**

At the July committee meeting, decisions were made about a number of future events:

- next year's Birthday Tournament will be held between Thursday 10 and Sunday 13 February, with two sessions per day starting at 4 pm. The final will be on Sunday during the day, with a barbeque to follow.
- this year's Summertime Tournament will be run as a round robin with eight players, played in the evenings during October, November and early December. This will be a full bisque competition aimed largely at silver and bronze players.
- An Open Handicap Tournament will be held during October and November.

More details on these last two events next month.

## **Refurbishment of Toilet**

The refurbishment of the toilet is almost complete as this newsletter goes to press. Once started, the builders moved very quickly to remove all the asbestos in the walls and ceiling, followed by lining and tiling, installation of the toilet suite and vanity unit, new lights, hand-dryer etc. We now have a bathroom facility we can be proud of – many thanks to the sub-committee (Pamela Hardie, Georgie Ofner, Graham Maynard and Michelle Nixon) for their work in getting this project under way, to North Sydney Council for moving quickly to get the job started (helped by a financial contribution from us) and to Steven Kim and his team of builders for a job well done.

## **Solar Panels**

With the refurbishment of the toilet almost complete, Warren Yates will move towards getting the Solar Panels project under way. The plan is to install the panels to generate electricity back into the grid, for which we will be paid approximately \$200 each quarter. The cost is expected to be less than \$5,000, and we should recoup that within about six years, perhaps even earlier if electricity prices rise as quickly as some have forecast.

## **Mila Kotala**

Our Secretary, Mila, is back home recuperating from one operation before having a second one in about 6 weeks time. Although she is not able to come to the Club, she is quite able to handle secretarial matters or simply have a chat on the phone.

## Mah Jong

Warren Yates has held two introductory evenings and there are now a number of Thursday afternoon players who intend to play Mah Jong when weather conditions are unsuitable for Croquet.

## Garden

It is now about 18 months since the Council planted the garden strip adjacent to the tennis court. Apart from the Tibuchina which we could not bear to part with, all other plants were removed and replanted with natives.

Although natives are generally low water users, some water was needed in the early months after planting. Now the plants which have survived are looking strong and will not need much watering from now on.

It is surprising that plants near the boundary fence have grown in a very shallow depth of soil above a sloping retaining wall that supports the tennis court surface. The most prominent of these is the "Free and Easy" creeper that is scaling the fence and, at the moment, is in glorious colour. Unfortunately, our neighbour does not share our enthusiasm for this climber so we have reduced these from 4 to 2 plants.

Other spectacular successes have been the 2 "Summer Red" eucalypt hybrids which flowered over summer - naturally. We are pruning this as a shrub to restrict its height. A "Summer Pink" will probably flower this year for the first time and we will not prune this; it can reach a height of 5 metres.

## New Croquet book

A further extract from the book, "Complete Croquet – A Guide to Skills, Tactics and Strategy" by James Hawkins:

### "Choice of Ball

It is possible to over-analyse the tactics of the game. If there is a ball that is close enough for you to be guaranteed of hitting, you probably do not want to think more deeply. Control passes to you if you make a roquet, so hit first, and only then think about what to do with your croquet stroke. *(but see comment below –Ed)* Ask yourself, 'Have I a guaranteed hit?' If the answer is 'Yes', just play the shot.

Things get more complex when you are not 100% sure of hitting. At the front of your mind should be the question 'Which ball would my opponent prefer me to leave where it is?' If your Red ball is near Black's hoop, you should certainly think about playing Red. The most dangerous positions for Red are the following:

- Red is near Black's hoop
- Black has a rush on Blue directly towards Red
- Red is at Black's subsequent hoop
- Red is somewhere in the middle of the lawn

Whichever of Red and Yellow features higher on this list is the more vulnerable. The safest option would be for you to play that ball.

There is some pressure off you if there is no clear-cut safe option. Maybe Red is near Black's hoop, but not quite near enough, and you are prepared to risk leaving it. Perhaps Red and Yellow are equally safe – or equally dangerous. You now have the luxury of playing the ball you want to, rather than the ball you think you ought to.

Here is your third question: 'Which ball do I want to play?'

In general, the ball you would like to play is the one that gives you the better scoring opportunity. If Red has a ball near its hoop, or the choice of an easy couple of shots to dig out a playable break position, then you will be tempted to opt for a shot with Red.

Even better, you might be spoilt for choice, with a promising start for either Red or Yellow. In this case, it is normally better to play your *backward ball* – the ball with more hoops still to score. So if Red and Yellow are for hoops 1 and 4-back, Red has the promise of a 12-hoop break, while Yellow can only hop for three hoops. Red is the clear candidate for the ball you would rather play next."

*(Editor's comment: you should ask yourself, before hitting the "unmissable" roquet, 'Where do I want to play the subsequent croquet stroke from?', and then attempt to roquet the target ball to that position)*

## Hire of Club Facilities

The committee has reviewed charges made for hire of the clubhouse and facilities, and has increased the rates to \$15 per person with a minimum of \$200, plus a fee of \$30 for use of the barbeque. For functions organised by members, the member just pays normal green fees and non-affiliated guests pay \$10 each, with no minimum charge.

## Impressionist Gardens at the National Galleries of Scotland

Impressionist Gardens at the National Galleries of Scotland, the first ever exhibition on the subject, features the work of all of the leading Impressionist painters, showing their depictions of gardens both domestic and public.













The Croquet Party (1873) by Edouard Manet

A game of croquet is in progress in the garden of Belgian artist Alfred Stevens. The ladies are about to start their turn while the gentlemen casually observe. Édouard Manet has traded his mallet for a paint brush. His colleague Paul Roudier has taken his place as the fourth player but has yet to participate actively and remains uninvolved in the background. The lady about to drive the ball is Victorine Meurent, whom Manet had already painted nude as Olympia and in *Déjeuner sur l'herbe* (Musée d'Orsay, Paris). In *La Partie de Croquet* she appears middle class and sporty. The others are Alice Lecouve and the man sitting is said to be Alfred Stevens. In 1873, when the picture was painted, croquet was a popular leisure activity in which both sexes could participate informally. Manet no longer found inspiration in painting nude figures and historical compositions. Along with Claude Monet he had already begun to experiment with plein air painting. The protagonists of the contemporary art scene, the artists and their models, left the cities and moved to the countryside. The garden became their studio.

# PROGRAM: July -- August 2010

	8.45	9-10	10-11	11-12	12-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-9.30	
Friday 30 July		Handicap games (all grades)													
Saturday 31 July							Bronze games								
Sunday 1		Golf Croquet (Denis Rolles' group)													
Monday 2		Games for all grades					Bronze games								
Tuesday 3							Beginner games								
Wednesday 4	Lawn mowing										Bronze games				
Thursday 5							Bronze games								
Friday 6		Handicap games (all grades)									Golf croquet (all welcome)				
Saturday 7							Bronze games								
Sunday 8		Golf Croquet (Lyndey Milan's group)													
Monday 9		Games for all grades					Bronze games								
Tuesday 10							Beginner games								
Wednesday 11	Lawn mowing										Bronze games				
Thursday 12							Bronze games								
Friday 13		Handicap games (all grades)													
Saturday 14							Bronze games								
Sunday 15		Golf Croquet (all welcome)													
Monday 16		Games for all grades					Bronze games								
Tuesday 17							Beginner games								
Wednesday 18	Lawn mowing										Bronze games				
Thursday 19							Bronze games								
Friday 20		Handicap games (all grades)													
Saturday 21	Committee meeting						Bronze games								
Sunday 22							Golf Croquet <1 lawn> (Jake Henzler's group)								
Monday 23		Games for all grades					Bronze games								
Tuesday 24							Beginner games								
Wednesday 25	Lawn mowing										Bronze games				
Thursday 26							Bronze games								
Friday 27		Handicap games (all grades)													
Saturday 28							Bronze games								
Sunday 29															
Monday 30		Games for all grades					Bronze games								
Tuesday 31							Beginner games								

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|  Lawns available for independent play |  Bronze games            |  Games for all grades |
|  Wine & cheese (lawns available)      |  Lawn mowing/maintenance |  Golf croquet         |
|  Committee meeting (lawns available)  |  Tournaments             |  Private hire         |
|  Coaching Sessions/Beginner games     |   |  |