

CAMMERAY CROQUET CLUB NEWSLETTER

August 2008:

New Playing Days

We have done a survey of most of our active players, and have identified a new playing day for bronze players, and new playing arrangements for the gold/silver group.

For *bronze players*, there will be an additional playing session on Monday afternoon, from 1.30 to 4 p.m. This will start on August 11th after the Beginner Games finish.

For *gold and silver players*, we have decided to change the playing session to Wednesday afternoon, from 1.30 to 4 p.m. This will commence on 13th August (as the clubhouse is being refurbished on 6th August). We have also identified Sunday night as the best night for gold/silver players when night play starts again in September.

Clubhouse refurbishment

Good news! The North Sydney Council approved the funds for some of the refurbishment work on the clubhouse, including levelling the floor, fixing the roof, and repairing the sections of timber which have rotted. This work started on Thursday 23rd July, and is expected to last around two weeks. We will have access to the clubhouse during this renovation, except for the time that the new raised floor is being installed, which will probably be on Tuesday and Wednesday 5th and 6th August. We are most grateful to the Council for their generous support.

Mallet Hire

We are introducing a new system where members can hire good quality mallets. This enables members to try out various kinds of mallets on a long-term basis before they buy one of their own. The money from the hire will be used to buy a range of mallets from different makers, so that members can have a wide choice. We will be charging \$20 for six months for superior grade mallets, and \$30 for six months for excellent grade mallets.

Please note that nearly all the present club mallets will remain free and available for general use.

Contact Di Loveday 9428-3580, Joan de Botton 9908-3334 or Neil Hardie 9958-7261 if you are interested in hiring a mallet.

Pennants

The Cammeray Gold Pennants team has won the NSW championship! The team won the first five of the six matches in the Sydney competition, and then Forster (the only country entrant) withdrew from the finals. Congratulations to the people who played for the Gold Team – Stephen Howes, Fay Simpson, Lesley Fransen, Neil Hardie, Glynn Gill, Ken Clapp and Patricia Goldrick.

The Bronze Pennants team did creditably, winning two out of their five matches. Our team members are all quite inexperienced, while their opponents were often players who had been playing in competitions for years.

Website

Do look at the Cammeray Croquet Club website; it is an excellent website, with news updated regularly. Warren Yates and Ron Wiebe are doing a magnificent job! The site address is:

www.cammeray-croquet.org.au/

Other Competitions

Cammeray had four representatives in the NSW Men's Open Singles – Peter Landrebe, Alan Walsh, Stephen Howes and Mike Hughes. Peter played brilliantly to win, with eight triple peels in his eleven wins and one loss. Mike Hughes played well to win 7 games and finish 6th.

Beginner Games

The last two Beginner Games session for this series will be on Saturday 2nd and 9th August from 9.30-12 noon. The participants should then join the normal bronze sessions on Monday, Thursday and Saturday afternoon. There will be another beginner series when the next group of people complete their training at the end of September.

Club Bronze Championship

The Cammeray Bronze Championship is turning out to be a hard-fought competition. Nancy Hickson has surprised her opponents by winning three games, and has a good chance of being runner-up. Leading the competition at present is Barbara McDonald who has won all her matches so far.

Croquet Course at Community Centre

We are running a course in croquet through the North Sydney Community Centre. When the course brochure went up on the NSCC website, the croquet course was filled within a couple of hours, so we were asked to run a second course. This second course is now full as well. The courses will be on Monday nights and Thursday nights during August and September, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Mallets and Croquet Equipment for Sale and Hire

Dawson Mallet, 31", nice grip, hardly used \$100 (new price \$200). Apply Bebe Abdullah tel. 9816 4574.

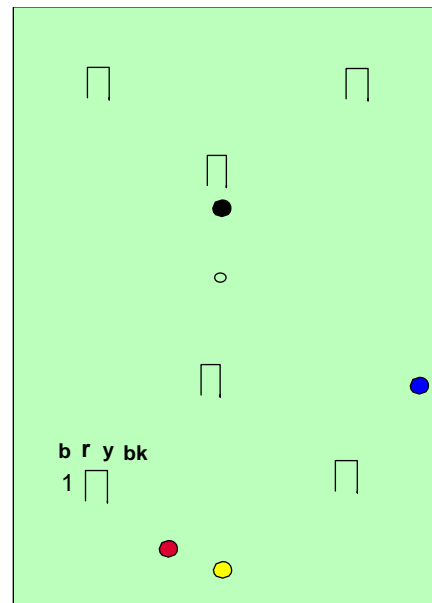
Mallet, purple heart head with brass rings - English hickory shaft -excellent ribbed NZ black grip - 3lb4oz wt - 34" long. Although it cost much more than that, owner would be happy to sell it for about \$260. Contact: Rudy Rencoret Phone: 94496329 or email rencoret@optushome.com.au

Blue and white mallet cover – suit mallet up to 34" long, with head up to 9". Price: \$30 – apply Neil Hardie 9958-7261.

PROBLEM PAGE:

Last month we set a problem in defensive tactics. In the position below, you are playing blue and black, with all balls still for hoop 1. It is your turn, and you have to decide what shot to play.

In a situation like this, two of the considerations are the skill of your opponent, and your own skill. If your opponent is a good player, then giving him/her the opportunity for an easy break may mean the end of the game for you. However, if your opponent is a top level player (e.g. Alan Walsh or Mike Hughes) then they are likely to set up a break and go round whatever you do with your ball – so you might as well have a go at a roquet. Of course, if you have a bisque you can afford to play a risky shot, because if you miss you can take a bisque and recover the situation.



If you are confident about your roquets, you have a good chance if you can hit any of the other three balls with blue. A competent player should be able to set up a four-ball break from any roquet in this position.

If I was playing against a bronze player, I would play black and try to roquet blue. This puts extra pressure on my opponent, and I am in a good position if the opponent fails to make the hoop, with both their balls at my hoop, and my two balls together. If the opponent does make the hoop, it is a challenge for a bronze player to rush one of my balls from the east boundary to hoop 2.

Against a silver player, I would have to be much more careful. They are almost certain to make the hoop, and could easily send their ball to hoop 3 and then rush my ball to hoop 2. Aiming at black with blue is not much better – if I miss, blue will finish up near hoop 2, which is useful for the opponent. It is too dangerous to aim at red or yellow; so I would probably play a safety shot, sending black into corner 4 – well away from the useful areas of hoops 2 and 3; but close enough to roquet blue if the opponent fails at hoop 1.

CAMMERAY CROQUET CLUB PROGRAM: AUGUST 2008

Friday	1	
Saturday	2	9.30-12 Beginner games; 1.30-4 p.m. bronze games
Sunday	3	Golf croquet 10 - 3
Monday	4	9.30-12 games for all grades 6-7 p.m. Beginner Coaching Course
Tuesday	5	Clubhouse refurbishment - limited access to clubhouse
Wednesday	6	Clubhouse refurbishment - limited access to clubhouse
Thursday	7	1.30-3.30 bronze games 6-7 p.m. NSCC Beginner Coaching Course
Friday	8	
Saturday	9	9.30-12 Beginner games; 1.30-4 p.m. bronze games
Sunday	10	
Monday	11	9.30-12 games for all grades Bronze games 1.30-4 p.m. 6-7 p.m. NSCC Beginner Coaching Course
Tuesday	12	
Wednesday	13	Gold/silver games 1.30-4 p.m.
Thursday	14	9.30-12 gold and silver games; 1.30-3.30 bronze games. 6-7 p.m. NSCC Beginner Coaching Course
Friday	15	
Saturday	16	Committee meeting 8.45 a.m. 1.30-4 p.m. bronze games
Sunday	17	
Monday	18	9.30-12 games for all grades Bronze games 1.30-4 p.m. 6-7 p.m. NSCC Beginner Coaching Course
Tuesday	19	
Wednesday	20	Gold/silver games 1.30-4 p.m.
Thursday	21	1.30-3.30 bronze games 6-7 p.m. NSCC Beginner Coaching Course
Friday	22	
Saturday	23	9.30-12 Beginner games; 1.30-4 p.m. bronze games
Sunday	24	Golf croquet 2 - 6 p.m.
Monday	25	9.30-12 games for all grades Bronze games 1.30-4 p.m. 6-7 p.m. NSCC Beginner Coaching Course
Tuesday	26	
Wednesday	27	Gold/silver games 1.30-4 p.m.
Thursday	28	1.30-3.30 bronze games 6-7 p.m. NSCC Beginner Coaching Course
Friday	29	
Saturday	30	
Sunday	31	