



# Cammeray Croquet Club



## NEWSLETTER December 2009



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

### Visit from Elmyr and Val Hughes

We had a visit early last month from Elmyr Hughes and his wife Val from Chester, UK. They are both members of Bowdon Croquet Club in Cheshire. Bowdon is a club of about the same number of members as Cammeray, with four lawns available. Elmyr and Val took part in the regular Saturday afternoon bronze games, even though Elmyr's handicap is 4. They expect to return to Sydney for a few days towards the end of November, and will be hoping to get a game of croquet in with us during that time.

This is a photo taken from the Bowdon Croquet Club website of Elmyr (centre) receiving the award for winning the Heaton Park Handicap Weekend in September last year. Elmyr and Val issued a warm invitation to any Cammeray members visiting the UK to drop in to Bowdon for a game. Get the address from [www.bowdoncroquet.co.uk](http://www.bowdoncroquet.co.uk) if you are interested.



### Christmas Party – Saturday 12 December, 4 pm – 7 pm

Don't miss this year's twilight Christmas party. Come along and enjoy champagne, wine, delicious finger food and the opportunity to celebrate the festive season with members and their partners. You can book and pay on line by direct debit, or fill out a booking form and put it together with \$25 in one of the envelopes at the club, then deposit the envelope in the cash box. Whether you book online or at the club, please pay when you book – we prefer not to accept bookings without payment, as in previous years people have put their names down and then not turned up.

Refunds are available if you need to withdraw before the close of bookings on December 5, but not after that as the food will have been ordered.

### Hi-Lo Tournament

The final of this tournament was played on Saturday 21 November between the Block A winners, Neil Hartley and David Stanton, and the Block B winners, Neil Hardie and Michelle Nixon. Neil and Michelle ran out winners on the day, 14-10. The extremely hot conditions I am sure contributed to the relatively low scoring and the number of missed roquets and hoops.



Neil and Michelle in an earlier game played at Chatswood



Neil and David during the final

Congratulations Neil and Michelle!

## Good Performances by Cammeray Members

- Peter Landrebe and Alan Walsh both played in the ACA Bronze Medal – an invitation event for the top ten players in NSW. Peter ran out the winner, and will now play in the ACA Gold Medal against other state winners. Alan won 5 of his 9 matches, and narrowly missed out on second place. Alan's handicap is now down to  $-1/2$ .
- Bebe Abdullah won the NSW Bronze Singles at Tempe, winning 5 of her 6 games, pegging out in all 5 games, and reducing her handicap to 18 in the process.
- Barbara McDonald came second in the NSW Silver Singles at Tempe, winning 4 of her 6 games, and pegging out in all 4 games. A remarkable effort giving that she was suffering a rather bad dose of the 'flu at the time, kindly brought back from Adelaide for her by Alan Walsh.
- Stephen Howes played in the Wagga Wagga Handicap tournament in October and won his block unbeaten.

Stephen reports *"Amongst my opponents were Jim Nicholls (2 handicap, Wagga) and John Cook (2, Bathurst). The game against Jim was particularly close as I had stupidly played my first ball to the peg and Jim quickly pegged it out. It wasn't until time was called with me on strike that the game turned my way – Jim had left a ball within roqueting distance for the first time. Roquet completed, I ran 5, 6, 1-back and 2-back with those two balls to equal the score, then managed to run 3-back. I lay up and Jim missed. A 1 point victory!*

*Croquet people everywhere are very welcoming and Wagga club is no different; I will be going back next year. Would anyone like to join me?"*

- Lesley Fransen won the Silver Singles Makara event played at Strathfield Club after winning the Bronze /Silver Doubles event with her partner from Marrickville Club, Margaret Stapleton. The silver doubles was played at Marrickville Club the week before.

Lesley's last game of the Silver Singles Makara event was played in 38 degree heat on Melbourne Cup Day. In her final game it came down to a match point between Ros Johnstone and Lesley and "luckily" Ros missed the first go at the hoop and Lesley was able to overcome the nerves and take out the winning point. Over the whole competition Lesley won all her games.

Lesley reports *"When I got home I collapsed with heat exhaustion having failed to put on the air-conditioning in my car on the drive home (passing through Rhodes the temperature reached 41 degrees by the car thermostat) which prolonged the day in the "sun/heat". I definitely had a fuddled brain after concentrating so hard in my last game!"*

- John Fransen came 2nd to John Eddes in the Makara Golf Croquet Gold Singles. His greatest achievements in the event were his scoring hoop 4 from the north boundary and hoop 5 from the south boundary at a 30 degree angle.

## Cammeray Summertime Tournament

This tournament has now been played for five weeks, and has good support from bronze level players. For many members this has been the first opportunity for handicap play, particularly full bisque handicap play. The experience of playing with bisques available (and against opponents with bisques available) is very valuable for a player's croquet development, and you are encouraged to come along if you haven't tried it already. There is no handicap limit, and games are full bisque with a base handicap of 11, with 2/3 of the normal bisques available to allow for the shortened time limit of 2 hours.

Two players (Bebe Abdullah and David Surridge) are undefeated at the moment.

The tournament will continue on Tuesday evenings until the end of daylight saving, with a break over Christmas/New Year. Bookings are available on the website two weeks in advance, and full details are on the News page of the website.

## Twilight Games

During daylight saving, our popular twilight games are being held on Monday evenings from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. followed by wine and cheese and scintillating conversation. The first two Twilight events were washed out by some much needed rain, but the series eventually got under way on 2 November with eight players. Do come along to these – all grades of player are welcome, it is a great chance to play against a range of players, and there is fine food and conversation afterwards.

## Children's Day

North Sydney Council held its annual Children's Day on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October next to the Council Chambers. Cammeray Croquet Club once again helped with this event by running mallet games for the children. Five club members kindly volunteered to assist with the running of this day, Judith Hammond, Michelle Nixon, Mila Kotala, Peter George and Warren Yates. The pictures below show how much the children enjoyed the day.



## Possible Link with Another Club

Cammeray Croquet Club is having discussions with the Wollstonecraft Bowling and Recreation Club at 7 Russell St, Wollstonecraft – off River Road. They have some spare lawn space, and we are thinking of setting up a golf croquet lawn there and working with them to develop play there. We will keep you in touch with any developments.

