



# Cammeray Croquet Club

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

## June Newsletter

### Club News

#### Social Afternoon – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June

Another reminder that your social committee is offering an opportunity to have a game of Golf Croquet with some of the 'regulars' this Sunday from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. And this will be followed by another wine tasting presented by Julian Todd of *BackVintage* fame.

You do not have to attend both sessions. You can skip the GC, and head straight for the wine table. Or you can play GC and leave when you like. We are not here to run your life!

#### Changes to the 'Weekly Program of Play'

Accompanying this Newsletter (see page 6) is a Draft Copy of a possible revised 'weekly program of play' which the Committee is considering. This has come about following changes in the 'shape' of club membership (which now looks very like an 'hour-glass') and the consequent difficulty some members may be experiencing in getting a regular game.

For the record, we have approximately 16 members in the Platinum division (with handicaps from 0 – 4.5), only 5 members in the Gold division (hcps 5 – 8), about 12 in Silver (9 –13), 16 in Bronze (13 – 20) and a further 20 'beginners', who are in need of some mentoring.

With that in mind, we have taken the opportunity to emphasise the many opportunities which our program, or 'timetable', offers for practice – every morning (early!) and at other times just about every day. (The ground staff have usually finished mowing by 8.30am.)

It is also proposed to resurrect the arrangement whereby lower handicap members make themselves available to offer 30 minutes of individual coaching to anyone who is there to ask, at the end of play on Monday and Wednesday mornings (at 12.30pm). This has proved very helpful in the past.

But none of this is set in concrete, and the Committee welcomes suggestions. One possibility that has been canvassed is making Friday morning another '12 and under' session, moving the current 'All handicaps' to Thursday morning. The monthly Silver 'Invitation' morning could stay or be moved to Thursday – depending on how everyone felt.

# Tournaments

## Open Pennants



The Cammeray team (James Carlisle, Michael Strickland, Steve Miles, and David Surridge) after their recent match against Canberra, in the 'Open' division of the CNSW Pennants competition.

In earlier rounds, Graham Maynard, Rob Barrie, and David Stanton each found a place in the team, and contributed to wins against Killara and Mosman.

Unfortunately, Marickville had to withdraw altogether before the competition began, leaving only four contenders.

Canberra and Cammeray have both completed their matches, with both recording two wins and one loss. It remains only for Mosman (one win, one loss) to play Killara (also one win, one loss) before the auditors go to work on deciding who wins the competition.

## Bronze Pennants

Cammeray has two teams in this event. The only other team is Killara. So far each team has one match win and one loss, and have three game wins and three losses. It is a double round-robin, so we look forward to the final outcome. The Cammeray Red Team is Malcolm Sheldon, Margaret Barrie, Suzy Flowers and Mary Goldsack. The Blue Team has Warren Yates, Sue Nicholas, John Potter and Evelyn Estcourt.

## Urunga AC Carnival



David and Bernie Gibson played - David and Bernie Gibson travelled to Urunga to play in their annual tournament. Nights and early mornings were cold but the days were beautiful and sunny. The courts are between the river and the golf course so the views are wonderful. Our croquet was not but it was great to be there. David struggled with his back and had to withdraw on the Friday after 8 games in 4 days, Bernie left her

croquet brain in Sydney. There were only 12 competitors but with half hour breaks between sessions there was time to socialise and be supportive to each other. There are great accommodation and food options nearby.

## **Cammeray Bronze Championship**

In the final Malcolm Sheldon beat Margaret Barrie 18-11.

## **International Croquet**

The Australian team for the McRobertson Shield to be played in July-August in England is: Trevor Bassett, Greg Fletcher, Malcolm Fletcher, Robert Fletcher, Stephen Forster, Greg Hill, Dwane McCormick, Stephen Pearce and Edward Wilson. The high performance manager for the team is Peter Landrebe.

This will be the Centenary of the McRobertson Shield.

The Australian players selected for the AC World Championships in Florida in October are: Robert Fletcher, Dwayne McCormick, Malcolm Fletcher, Greg Fletcher, Greg Hill, Stephen Forster, Callum Hyland, Lachlan Berryman and Michael Gidding.

## **Multi-talented Croquet Player**

Fleuranne Brockway, who was one of the leading croquet players in West Australia is also a world-class opera singer. She was named Grand Laureate in this year's Concours musical international de Montréal, and takes home a suite of prizes worth more than \$80,000 AUD, including a cash prize of \$30,000 CAD (\$33,631 AUD), the Joseph Rouleau Career Development Grant (\$44,842 AUD) and the Opéra de Montréal Aria Prize (\$5,605 AUD).

# **Australia's only croquet ball manufacturer performs his niche craft in a Humpty Doo shed**

By [Elias Clure](#) and [Robert Baird](#)

[www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-15/australias-only-croquet-ball-manufacturer-shed-humpty-doo/9871568](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-15/australias-only-croquet-ball-manufacturer-shed-humpty-doo/9871568)



**Paul Manwaring owns Dawson's Croquet Company, based at Humpty Doo.  
(ABC News: Terry McDonald)**

Croquet may not seem at first glance to be the most Territory of ball sports, but in a shed in rural Darwin, competition-standard croquet balls are being made. It's a career Paul Manwaring never thought he'd pursue; prior to making croquet balls he was a gardener at a Northern Territory school, doing a bit of plastering work on the side. Now he's one of only a handful of people in the world working in this niche field.

He stumbled upon the Australian Croquet Company while playing croquet in Melbourne with his parents. "I was down south and I heard that the club needed more balls and they mentioned something about [the ball manufacturer] selling the business, so I looked into it and followed through and bought it," he said. Mr Manwaring bought the business from Bryan Dawson, a legendary croquet player, who concocted a special mix that makes what players describe as the perfect croquet ball.

"I met with him a few times and he showed me how to do it and then I moved it up here to Humpty Doo," he said. "It's pretty scientific, it starts from a plastic base and then you stir it, mould it and press it."

### **One of only three approved makers worldwide**

The operation runs out of Mr Manwaring's shed, where the moulds are set and pressed at a special temperature. Three hours later, they're prised from their case. He then polishes, packs, and ships the balls to more than 300 clubs across Australia.



**Paul Manwaring's business is one of only three official manufacturers in the world.**  
*(ABC News: Elias Clure)*

His are the ball of choice in the United Kingdom, Canada, and New Zealand. The sport's premier governing body — the Croquet Association — has just three approved suppliers: in Taiwan, Kentucky in the US, and the Australian Croquet Company. "Every three years I have to send them to England to the Croquet Association where Alan Pidcock puts them through a rigorous process," Mr Manwaring said. Mr Pidcock was the world leader in manufacturing croquet mallets before he retired in 2016.





**The croquet balls are made in a Humpty Doo workshop.**  
**(ABC News: *Elias Clure*)**

Mr Manwaring is proud he was able to save the business from shutting down completely; its previous owner had been trying to sell it for years. "I like being able to keep small manufacturing going in Australia," he said. "It's a niche product that people love around the world, so I decided that I'd keep on Bryan's legacy and keep making the balls." More than 3,000 kilometres south in Adelaide, every local club uses Paul's Dawson croquet balls, and president of the South Australian Croquet Association Eileen Ferguson counts herself a fan.

**"They are the best I've ever played with," she said.**

"I've played with about five different sorts of balls since I've been playing, they're just fabulous. "It's so great that we can have and buy croquet balls right here in Australia that we can ... play with, it's really amazing." Ms Ferguson said many people were surprised to discover Australia's sole croquet ball manufacturer was housed in a shed in Humpty Doo, on a dusty street just down the road from jumping crocodile tours. Mr Manwaring agrees, noting that croquet is a sport normally associated with royals, manicured English gardens, and Alice in Wonderland.

"It's rather strange actually ... No flamingos around here!" he said.

## **Note:**

Since this article was published, Robert Fletcher (world number 1 player) has set up Invictus Croquet, which manufactures mallets and balls in Australia. Last year the balls were approved by the World Croquet Federation for use in all tournaments. Invictus is based in Melbourne.

# DRAFT Weekly Programme of Play (June 2025)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8.00 – 10.00am Practice for all (subject to mowing)	8.00 – 10.00am Practice for all (subject to mowing)	8.00 – 10.00am Practice for all (subject to mowing)	8.00 – 10.00am Practice for all (subject to mowing)	8.00 – 10.00am Practice for all (subject to mowing)	8.00 – 9.00am Practice for all	8.00 – 10.00am Practice for all
10.00 - 12.30pm Games for Hcp 12 and under	10.00 - 12.30pm Handicap Games (All welcome!)	10.00 - 12.30pm Games for Hcp 8 and under	10.00 - 12.30pm Games for Hcp 12 and under (or 13 and over??)	10.00 - 12.30pm Handicap Games (All welcome!) First Fri: Silver Invit'n	9.00 - 11.00am Beginner Lessons (Lawn 1) Practice (Lawn 2)	10.00 - 2.00pm 2nd Sun in month Helen Graswill's GC Group
12.30 Coaching		12.30 Coaching				
1.00 - 3.30pm Games for Hcp 13 and above (Mentoring on one lawn)	1.00 - 3.30pm Games for Hcp 13 and above	2.00 - 4.00pm Beginner Lessons (Lawn 1) Practice (Lawn 2)	1.00 - 3.30pm Games for Hcp 9 & above on Lawn 1 GC on Lawn 2	1.00 – 3.30pm Arranged games or practice.	1.00 - 3.30pm Hcp 9 and above	2.00-4.00pm Golf Croquet (All welcome!)
4.00 - 6.00pm Twilight Hi-Lo games in Summer	4.00 - 6.00pm Both lawns available for practice		4.00 - 6.00pm Both lawns available for practice	4.00pm Available for function hire	4.00pm Available for function hire	