



Cammeray Croquet Club

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

March Newsletter

Tournaments

There has been a wealth of splendid tournaments lately. James Carlisle has continued his winning ways, while it has been a pleasure to see some of Cammeray's newer players entering tournaments – well done Fred Adam and Evelyn Estcourt.

CNSW 3 and under

The NSW 3 and under tournament took place at Cooks River on 27 Feb to 1 March, with four Cammeray members competing in the field of eight - James Carlisle, Rob Elliott, Mike Hughes and Alison Sharpe. It came down to a dramatic final day, with Alison and James playing their final block game in a head-to-head to ensure one of their places in the final. Alison won it, but James still scraped into the final, thanks to Trevor Basset beating Stephen Pearce in their final block game, with a score of 26-25, but only after rushing onto the peg* to fail to complete his triple peel and missing the peg a couple of times with his remaining ball.

**This means end of turn as there is no ball on court from which to take croquet – it is called a 'grievous'.*

James took the first game of the best-of-three final and a commanding lead in the second, reaching rover and peg with both Alison's clips still on one and only an hour to play. Alison was able to chip away at the lead, taking her clips to 2-back and 4-back, while James had a chance to finish, but missed the return roquet after rover to leave him on peg and peg. With about 10 minutes on the clock, James pegged one ball out, but Alison, undaunted, made two steely two-ball breaks to the peg, first from 2-back and then from 4-back. Unfortunately, she was also only able to peg one ball out, leaving the scores at 25-25, with time having been called. James then missed his 13-yard shot at the peg, giving Alison a chance to hit hers from about 8 yards.

Game 3 was only a little less dramatic. Alison and James began by making breaks to 4-back and James was able to back it up by taking his second ball to the peg, but without any peels. Alison then put together the beginnings of a triple peel to win the match, but unfortunately stuck in hoop 5 off James's 4-back ball, with her other ball nicely lodged in 4-back and James's peg ball handily positioned at 6/penult. It would be hard to imagine a better set-up for James to finish, but he still

nearly wired himself while taking off to get his rush to the peg, and then watched as that rush rolled directly towards the peg, for what would have been the second 'grievous' of the day. Ultimately, though, the croquet gods were with him and his ball stopped about a foot short, allowing him to peg both out and claim the trophy. Alison was runner-up, while Trevor Bassett, after losing the first game of the 3/4th play-off, completed triple peels in games two and three to claim third, leaving Stephen Pearce in fourth. Rob Elliott beat Mike Hughes in the plate final, to finish fifth, with Mike in sixth.

(report by James Carlisle)

CNSW 5 and under doubles

There were five Cammeray members in this, and two former members. James Carlisle and Liz Montagu won all of their five games to finish first. Joanne Brown and Jim Nicholls came second on hoop count with three wins ahead of Alison Sharpe and Rob Elliott. Paul Skvorc and Don Wright did well to finish fourth, also on three wins.



James Carlisle



Paul Skvorc



Rob Elliott



Alison Sharpe

Beryl Chambers Northern Metropolitan Qualifying

The Beryl Chambers is the NSW State Handicap Championship. Qualifying tournaments are held in different parts of NSW, then the qualifiers come to Sydney to play off for the championship.

David Stanton, Evelyn Estcourt and Fred Adam competed in the Northern Metro Qualifying. Sadly, none of them qualified. David was leading the field into the last round where he met an in-form Gerrard Barry and dropped to third place.



**David Stanton
in the Beryl Chambers**

The Mosman Bash by Bernie Gibson

This great tournament was held on the last weekend in March. Friday was cold and rainy and then a strong wind came up. Perseverance was the order of the day! Saturday dawned fine and everyone returned to enjoy two more days of play.

Cammeray members were everywhere-eight of us enjoying the playing and the socializing – and the food.

David Stanton and Neil Hardie were two of only three non-playing referees. David Gibson and Michael Strickland were among the many playing referees. We were grateful to all of them.

Bernie Gibson won her block, so did David Gibson. Michael Strickland came second in the top block. It was great to see Fred Adam and Evelyn Estcourt playing in an outside tournament. They did well and I am sure learned a lot.



David Gibson



Bernie Gibson



Michael Strickland



David Surridge



Chris Brown



Margaret O'Brien



Evelyn Estcourt

Upcoming Tournaments

30/3 – 15/4 Cammeray Beginners – a great opportunity for newer members to play in a tournament with expert guidance. It is pleasing to see that there are six entries.

11-14/4 Australian Men's and Women's Singles: in Western Australia. No information about players is available for these.

18-19/4 CNSW Silver Doubles – at Cammeray: Bronwyn McGrane, Sandra Colquhoun and Rob Barrie are in this.

20-21/4 CNSW Silver Singles – at Cammeray – Lucy Rees has entered.

22-26/4 Fletcher Sharpe Invitational . This is a golf croquet tournament for under 35 players. It has rich prizes, and attracts some of the world's top players. It will be held at Cooks River. Entries include Robert, Malcolm and Greg Fletcher and nine players from New Zealand. If you want to see top class GC, go and watch this!

Club News

Michael Strickland reports:

Not a bad Effort!

On a beautiful sunny Monday morning, playing on Lawn 2, we were privileged to witness to a splendid exhibition of croquet by one of our number who, against some pretty stiff opposition, succeeded in pegging out in the **fifth** turn of the game.

Having hit in, on the third turn, the man in question proceeded to run a flawless 3-ball break of nine hoops, and set the customary '3 ducks' leave. The lift shot missed (only just, it should be noted!), and our friend promptly proceeded to complete an untroubled triple peel, and peg out.

26-0, with the opposition not even taking croquet. Well done, Rob Elliott!!

Pennants 2026

The format has changed somewhat this year, but the club has resolved to enter teams in every division, from Bronze through to Platinum (or Premier, as it is now called) and Open, the last-mentioned being played to Handicap rules, as opposed to the traditional Level play adopted for each of the division competitions.

If you would like to get involved, and haven't yet done so, please get in touch with our Games Captain, Rob Barrie rbarrie@iinet.net.au or 0408 233 538.

Croquet NSW Board

We are pleased to report that Rob Barrie has been appointed to the Board of CNSW. Congratulations Rob!

Notes On Croquet Laws - Changing Mallets

Most experienced players know that it is forbidden to change your mallet during a turn – unless is it damaged (Law 5.5.6.1). This is a sensible law, as it prevents a player from selecting a different mallet to play a particular shot – such as a mallet with a thin head or a short head to play a hampered shot, or a heavy mallet to play a long croquet shot on a slow lawn.

It is permissible, however, to choose a different mallet at the start of a turn. This might be seen as a chance to use a very wide mallet to give yourself a wiring lift if a ball is close to a hoop leg; but the laws cover this in law 16.4.2: when testing if a player has an unimpeded swing on a ball, the mallet to

be used in the test is the mallet the striker used in the turn before the relevant ball assumed its current position.

An interesting situation occurred recently, Mike Hughes reports, when a player accidentally picked up someone else's mallet and started playing with it. The owner of the mallet naturally demanded its return. Can the player now change to his/her own mallet, or is this forbidden under Law 5.5.6.1, leaving the player unable to continue?

Fortunately the laws cover this situation. The law says that a mallet 'cannot be exchanged for another during a turn unless it is no longer available ...'. As the return of a borrowed mallet to its owner means that it is no longer available to the borrower, the law says that it can be exchanged, and the player can continue with his/her own mallet.

It would be possible that a player, faced with a hampered shot, selected someone else's mallet which was thinner than their own. Having played the hampered shot, they would be happy to return the mallet. This would be covered by law 63 which deals with the 'spirit and traditions of the game' – especially if the borrowed mallet was obviously different from the player's own mallet. In such a case, as referee I would require the player to replay the hampered shot with his/her own mallet.