



Cammeray Croquet Club

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

July Newsletter

Tournaments

Cammeray Bronze Championship

This is progressing, with five entrants. Andrew Stark is currently leading with two wins out of two, with Margaret Barrie next with two wins from three. This tournament is unusual in that it is a 26 point competition – bronze competitions are usually 18 point, but the players said they preferred the longer game.

Fred Adam is the other player in this tournament.



**Rose Webb and Robert Speare in the
Cammeray Bronze Tournament**

CNSW Gold Singles: In this, three players all finished with the same number of wins. David Stanton came second on a hoop count.

Overseas Tournaments: There have been some interesting tournaments in England recently. James Carlisle and Alison Sharpe played in the English Doubles Championship. They were knocked out in the first round of the main knockout, then did well in the Swiss Plate, but lost in the first round of the Plate Knockout.

English Singles Championship: James Carlisle entered this; he qualified for the knockout through the Swiss competition, then won two matches to reach the quarter-finals before being beaten by James Death – ranked third in the world.

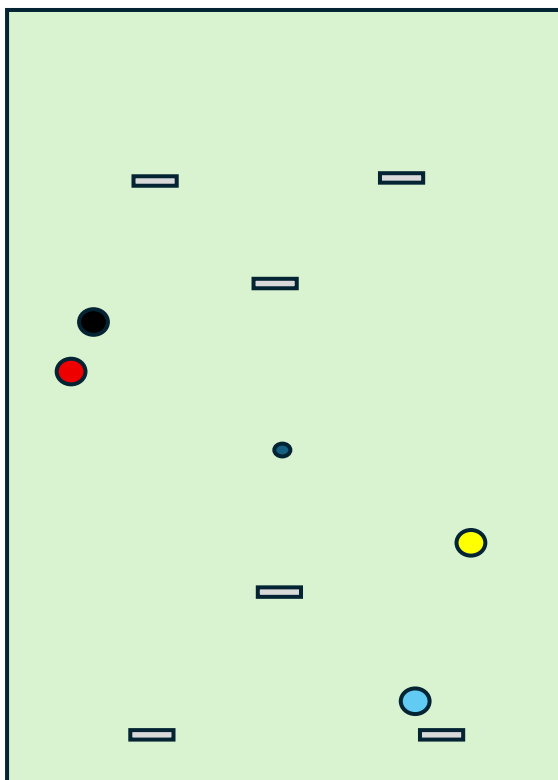
MacRobertson Shield: This is the series of matches between the top four croquet countries – England, Australia, New Zealand and USA. So far, Australia has lost to England; not surprisingly as we were not able to field our best team – only two of the top six Australians are in the team.

LEAVES

Less experienced players are often too impatient and too optimistic in their play. When the break begins to fall apart, they try desperately to make another hoop even when this requires a series of very difficult shots. More experienced players will stop trying to make hoops, and set a leave which enables them to resume their break next turn.

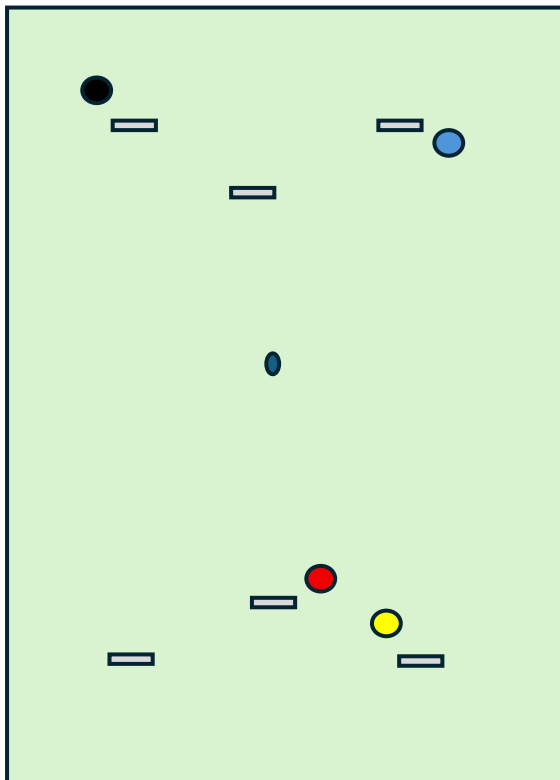
The leave they set should make it very difficult for their opponent to make any hoops (or any roquets, for that matter), but should make it easy for the player to start another break. To achieve this, it is necessary to put the two opponent balls far apart (or wired from each other) and the player's balls close together with a useful rush – but not giving a double.

If you are playing advanced rules, with lifts after 1-back and 4-back, and you have given a lift, then you also have to ensure that your leave puts all balls are a long way from the baulk lines.



In the diagram opposite, red is in play and aiming for hoop 2. Yellow is for hoop 5. It will be easy to make hoop 2, but it would require much expertise to make hoop 3; so the player should make hoop 2 and then set a leave. Note that yellow is too close to blue, so these balls must be put further apart.

A sensible sequence would be: rush black to hoop 2, and make hoop 2. Do a take-off to blue (don't try any fancy rolls – it is difficult enough to get close to blue). Roquet blue and send it to hoop 3 as a pioneer for the next turn, while finishing close to yellow. Roquet yellow and roll it towards hoop 5. Set a rush so that yellow can rush red to hoop 5, or red can rush yellow to hoop 4 – a good position if the opponent does not move blue away from hoop 3.



In the diagram opposite red/yellow has a good position. If black shoots at blue and misses, then red rushes yellow to hoop 4, takes off up to black, puts black in as a pivot while going to blue to make hoop 3, with a good break in prospect. If blue shoots at black, then yellow rushes red to hoop 5, makes the hoop, then takes off to blue (presumably on the boundary), croquets blue to 1 back and rushes black to hoop 6.

If blue aims at red or yellow, the break is more difficult; if you are roqueting well, roquet blue with yellow, put blue to hoop 6, and make hoop 5 off red. If you do not fancy the roquet of blue, then make hoop 5 off red, and try to get a forward rush after making the hoop.

For experts the Oxford Croquet site has an excellent section on leaves, including leaves for sextuples, leaves after making a break with three balls on the lawn, contact leaves, and a variety of leaves after making 3-back. These leaves require preparation several hoops before the leave is actually made. This article is for less competent players who need to know the basic principles of leaves.