



Cammeray Croquet Club



December 2020

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



The President's Column:



We are all gliding slowly into Christmas this year – even our lawns are closed but due to open again on January 4.

What will be happening next year?

- COVID-19 will still be around which means that we still have to follow government guidelines – no shared surfaces, sanitise frequently, wash the croquet balls in soap and water and wipe the hoops with wipes.
- The clubhouse will be open as will the kitchen but the kitchen cupboards will be closed so byo mug. Use gloves or a paper towel for the jug/urn and coffee machine
- We will be having our trophy presentation on Sunday, January 31 from 9:30am. Being the 5th Sunday, this is also our fun day. Hopefully, we can all experience a game of ricochet, then golf croquet. Exact catering arrangements will depend on government regulations but hopefully we can have a BBQ
- Our AGM will be held on Saturday February 13 starting at 10am. We have already had some volunteers putting their hand up so please let me know if you would like to contribute. We are lucky in that no one on the Committee really wants to be there (so you can volunteer for any position) – we would all rather be playing croquet but we won't be able to do that unless we have a club! Catch 22!

- Our playing program is flexible and responsive to player needs. If you would like to have a change to the playing session times or play more night games, please let me know. Monday Twilight Croquet will be back on January 4. There will be 2 hour games but we will play what people want. There will be a COVID friendly drink after play with disposable glasses and a designated bar person. Tuesday afternoons are a big time and it is good to see all the new and not so new faces – welcome back Nancy
- We will be having our Birthday Tournament April 15-18, the Summertime Tournament October 24-25 as well as hosting some of the Australian Championships around March 12-15. We will need member support to run all these events so please put these dates in your diary. If everyone helps it all gets done with a minimum of fuss.

The other night my wife asked me for some Thai basil so I quickly popped across to the croquet club to pick some from the plant beside the shed. You can also find rosemary, sage and thyme ready to pick as well as some hot chilli. Our parsley is still struggling but should be ready for picking around the end of January. All the herbs are there for all members to use and the more you use the better they grow.

Perhaps Santa will be bringing you a mallet for Christmas? Your game certainly improves when you can play with the same mallet each week. We have a number of mallets for hire which means that the mallet is yours for three months and you can take it home. Ralda Kirton is handing on the role of mallet hire but you can still contact her for a while. Ralda will be playing croquet in Nelson Bay from 2021.

The end of the year is a great time to plan your tournaments for 2021. You can find a list of all tournaments in the Events menu item on the CNSW website www.croquet-nsw.org. Playing in a tournament improves your game rapidly. You will have good days and bad days but don't worry we have all been there. As well as the Cammeray tournaments many Cammeray players attend tournaments at Mosman, Manly and Jamberoo. Why not plan a trip to Port Macquarie or Forster? You may have to play GC but how hard can that be?

There is plenty to look forward to in the new year. But more importantly, enjoy your time with those you love. And if it rains, remember our lawns will be growing.

Have a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Steve Miles



Other News:

We hope to run a tournament similar to the Dixon Classic later in the year; we are unlikely to get sponsorship from Dixon Advisory again, so we are looking for other sponsors, or other ways of funding the tournament.

Neil Hardie is running a course on the laws for newer players in January – Wednesday 13th and Friday 15th at 2 p.m.. If you are interested, contact him at nhardie@ozemail.com.au

An Interview with **WERNER KOS**



Caught in the Hoop!

Conversations with Graham Maynard

GM: Good morning Werner!

WK: Good Morning!

GM: When did you start croquet and what sort of lightbulb lit up to motivate you to take it up?

WK: Well, I started it three years ago.

GM: And what got you going?

WK: I was into bowls a lot, then I got sick of bowls because I'd played too much for too long and there's a croquet club across from the Coogee bowling club, so I thought I'd give them a go.

GM: Alright, so you're originally from Austria...

WK: ...born in Austria...

GM: ...born in Austria, when did you come to Australia and what made you come?

WK: Oh, mate, well I happened to be on the road and I left Austria and I kept going West and every time I went West there was more sun and more blue skies so I kept going West until I ended up in Australia.

GM: So, you discovered croquet which is not a top sport in Austria is it?

WK: No, it isn't!

GM: Well that's good, because we like lots of people from different places in Australia!

WK: Yeah, well the country is based on ethnics!

GM: So, what did you do when you came here? Bum around?

WK: I was here for two years the first time I came in '65, got married in '67 and left, we went overland to Austria, so, you know, India, Nepal etc....

GM: Right! The hippy-trail, backwards!

WK: (laughs) Well, we came back in '72 and have been here since.

GM: So, is croquet your main sport now?

WK: The only sport, other than walking.

GM: Now, you recently won a couple of good competitions, including a CNSW title, what were those?

WK: It was the CNSW Handicap Singles 9 and over on a base of six.

GM: So, you're a State Champion!

WK: (Falls over laughing).

GM: Oh yeah...it's true!

WK: Well, yes, you could call it that – sounds magnanimous – but...!

GM: And what was the other one that you played?

WK: It was at the end of the same week, it was at Jamberoo, where I won my block.

GM: What has been your worst sort of “kick yourself” moment in croquet so far? Come on, tell us!

WK: Well it was today... I was missing hoop-runs and four-foot roquets, like everyone else (laughter)...

GM: ...no, I don't think so...but, how do you handle that, then?

WK: Well, you just pack-up, forget it and start again, you can't think about it too much. In social games it's different; I think people play better competitively. For most people I think it's just the enjoyment of coming out and playing socially.

GM: OK. So what are your plans for next year?

WK: Well, as you know Janette and I go up north for three to four months and there are no associated croquet clubs north of Mackay.

GM: Ever thought of taking up a position here on the Committee?

WK: Look, I already belong to three croquet clubs. Actually when I joined Coogee there were two or three ladies who played AC, and two was a game and three was a pain in the butt and I never got a look-in...

GM: ...Yeah, I don't know if we can put “a pain in the butt” in!

WK: (chuckles) Oh, no...so I quickly found out about Cammeray and joined because of the AC.

GM: Well, we're very happy to have you here.

WK: Oh, I'm a happy member here, it's a lovely club, people, and lawns.

GM: Thank you very much Werner.

WK: Thank you!

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This is the first of a series of interviews of club members by Graham Maynard – so if Graham approaches you with a microphone, do not be alarmed, and please be cooperative!



Lawns Report from Steve Miles

There has been a lot of work on the Cammeray lawns since the arrival of Mick Stokes at North Sydney Council as head of the greenkeeping staff. Mick is no stranger to the area, having worked at Cammeray Golf club for more than twenty years.

Our lawns were a mixture of many grasses with different areas of what was meant to be a couch lawn infiltrated by blue couch, carpet grass, paspalum, kikyu and seasonal grasses. Our club lawns were still the best in Sydney, but they could be so much better. Mick started an extensive spraying, first doing two complete sprays and then spot spraying as the blue couch (which is not a couch) struggled back. Spraying is necessary to avoid the holes that are left if weeds are pulled out (and they are very useful for choosing your target spot for your playing stroke). But the sprays need to be applied at the correct coverage rate and hence the marks on the lawn that are used as a guide when spraying to make sure that all areas get sprayed once and no more than once.

Our lawns were cored and top dressed with sand in the mid year including a double load on the tennis court side where the lawns are lower. The slope on the lawns is the reason why hoops 2, 3 and 6 remain wet for longer and lawn 1 is wetter than lawn 2.

Our lawns recovered well but there were still a few patches from hoop wear and also loss of weed grass. Alan Walsh moved the hoops to help with hoop wear, but the bare patches needed more serious work. The geographically south east corner (in croquet terms this is the north-east corner but that is another article) was also levelled out as this had become a bit of a hill. After more spot spraying each two weeks the lawns were closed for renovation on Monday, December 14.

What a day that was. Lawns were cored, top dressed and levelled all in one day. All we needed was rain, which came the very next day. And we got it – 25mm in 24 hours. By Wednesday you could hear the grass growing and getting ready for play on January 4, 2021.

Our lawns should be in prime condition by the time we host some of the Australian Championship matches in March.



The top-dressed lawns



Close-up of the coring

