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***From the
President's Desk***

I have a good deal of pleasure first up in telling you that at a State Executive meeting on 22nd April the decision was made to appoint Ian Scott, presently State Vice President, to the position of State Director for Association Croquet. Ian of course will come up for re-election at the State AGM, but his appointment now allows him a little time to prepare a "policy statement" for discussion at the AGM.

Said AGM is rapidly approaching being set for the 25th May at New Town Croquet Club. By the time you read Tassie Tales agendas and nomination forms will be in all Clubs, and it is time to appoint club delegates and digest the agendas for the day.

Some of the things to come forward will be the adoption of a Development Plan for the State, a draft copy of which has been with Clubs since early February for discussion.

The Competitions Committee will also meet shortly to develop a draft calender for consideration .

Another item of importance will be some idea gathering on the methods we may use to promote the games of Croquet throughout our communities. There may well be three levels of promotion, a/. through Clubs at club days, b/. at community activities such as fairs/ shows etc, and c/.through schools and the development of regional schools programmes. I would hope we could appoint promotions committees in areas and find a good volunteer to act as State Promotions Officer.

Following the AGM will be the Annual Dinner and trophy presentations, and on Sunday the "North" has challenged the "South" to a varied programme of both Association and Golf matches to act as a finale to the year, which in actual practice does not have an end.

Henry Burbury (President)



***A word from the
editor***

My new year's resolution this year was to make good on my promise of last year to publish a minimum of four annual issues. I also resolved to get Tassie Tales on the TCA website.

Tassie Tales is now available on the WWW in full-colour electronic form at

http://croquettas.com/tca/tca/tca/?page_id=2877

To fit in the four issues, I plan another issue in June after the TCA AGM, one in September as the new season gets underway, and a Christmas edition in December.

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Federal Member for Bass***

State news

- 1 The Annual Dinner and Trophy Presentation evening will be held at the same venue as the past few years - the Harold Gregg Centre at Sandown Village, Sandy Bay on 25 May 2013
- 2 The TCA AGM and associated meetings will be held at the New Town Croquet Club on Saturday 25 May commencing at 10 AM
- 3 The TCA web site www.croquettas.com is being continuously upgraded by our Web officer Sally Liggins. There is a direct link to the latest croquet scores in major tournaments in Tasmania and Interstate
- 4 The TCA draft Development Plan for 2013-15 has been sent to Clubs for input. The final plan will be presented for approval at the AGM in May
- 5 A reminder to all referees and umpires (for for both AC and GC) that under updated accreditation requirements they need to complete the online Officiating General Principles course via

<https://learning.ausport.gov.au>
- 6 Lee Turner has taken on the role of regional Promotions Officer for the North of the State and any one interested in taking on the position in the South should contact the TCA Secretary Graeme Denehey
- 7 The TCA provided a grant of \$2000 towards the travel costs of the Tasmanian Team competing in the Eire Cup and Australian ACA championships in Adelaide in March
- 8 Greg Bury ,the National Director of Coaching ran a GC Coaching Course in early February and we now have a number of accredited GC Coaches in both the North and South
- 9 Tricia Vierra , Assistant secretary of the TCA is in the process of updating a Billeting Register to enable greater participation of players in events in both Hobart and Launceston

Graeme Denehey

Association Croquet Championships

The State Women's, Men's and Open Association Croquet Championships were all held at the Northern Tasmanian Croquet Centre at St. Leonards.

At the start of the final round of the Women's Association Croquet Championship, Ricki Barrett (Sandy Bay) had wrapped up third place, but Sue Beattie (Kingston) and Anne Quinn (Victoria) were both still undefeated. Victory in this final game went to Sue Beattie 26-11.

There was a similar scenario in the Men's AC Championship, where coming into the final round Rob McAdam (Kingston) had sealed third place, but David Wise (South Australia) and his opponent Bob Bye (Sandy Bay) were undefeated. In the final game, David Wise defeated Bob Bye 26 – 5.

Going in to the final round of the block stage of the Open AC Championship, David Wise (South Australia) had already guaranteed himself a place in the final, but Rob McAdam (Kingston) needed to ensure that Bob Bye(Sandy Bay) did not beat him by more than 16 points. Early in their game Rob got a break, went all the way round to the peg, and pegged himself out – enough to make sure he finished in second place on net points. He went on to win this game 26 – 10.

In the best of 3 final, conditions were challenging, with the lawns very fast after 3 days of hot sun with no watering. David Wise beat Rob McAdam 26 – 13 in the first game. Rob McAdam kept the final alive with a comfortable 26 – 4 win in the second game. In the final game, both players had chances to make breaks, but David Wise missed a couple of important roquets to go down 26 – 2.

Golf Croquet Results

In the Golf Croquet Handicap event held at the Northern Tasmanian Croquet Centre Bob Godfrey (St. Leonards) beat Graham Keating 7-2, 7-4 in the best-of-three final, while Roberta Campbell (Devonport) beat Kath Lines (Kingston) in the Plate final.

The Golf Croquet Singles Championship was held at Newtown, and Bob Godfrey beat Gina Kirkland 7-4, 7-6 in the best-of-three final,

while Victorian Val Saunders won the Plate from runner-up Daryl Jacobs (Eastern Shore).

The 2013 TCA Gold Croquet Medals event was held at the Northern Tasmanian Croquet Centre over the weekend of April 6th and 7th.

At the conclusion of the block stage of the Silver medal, all three players had won 1 match, and all three had won 3 games. The order on net points was Helen Larner (St. Leonards) on +5, followed by Roberta Campbell (Devonport) on -2, and close behind Peter Tracey (Kingston) on -3.

In the best-of three final Roberta Campbell reversed her loss to Helen Larner in the block stage, coming out on top 6-7, 7-6, 7-6.

The Gold Medal was run as a full knockout of best-of-three 13pt games, without an initial block stage of single game matches.

In a close final, Geoff Kingdon (Devonport) eventually triumphed over June Pongratz (New Town) 7-5, 6-7, 7-2.

Australia Day weekend in Devonport

Once again, the 37th Devonport Summer Tournament over the Australia day long weekend was a great success. As usual, the organisers managed to provide the fun food and frivolity that makes this one of the most anticipated of all competitions on the TCA Calendar.

Croquet Chairperson of the Devonport Bowls and Croquet Club Inc. Patsy Paine donned one of her many hats and welcomed the thirty two players on a sunny Australia Day . Changing partners every game, and playing 45-minute doubles on half-courts in 22 point games, congratulations must go to Henry Burbury & Graham Keating who took the money for being the first pair to score 22 hoops even if it was in a game against the host chairperson!

As always, the real highlight was the dinner on the Saturday night, where each club was expected to put on a performance to entertain the crowd. There were many laughs with some great joke telling and a memorable performance of Cinderella by the Eastern Shore Croquet Club (pictured).



Back row: Ian Smith (the clock striking midnight), Daryl Jacobs (the Devil), Graham Keating (Prince Charming), and Cecily Jones (Fairy Godmother), Front row: Ugly sisters Liz Smith, Margaret Cummings, and Pam Hamilton, and John Jacob (Cinderella).

Day two provided more sunny weather, more food and more croquet and somehow we managed to knobble all the winning players from day 1 and when the final scores were tallied Ian Smith from Eastern Shore was declared the winner with an average of 13.72 hoops per game.

REMINDER: Mark January 25th and 26th 2014 in your diary for the next Summer Tournament

eMail advice

Emailing to Croquet Club members can be a problem because not everyone has the latest software or fastest internet plan. And sometimes it is very difficult to find that old email with important information in it. So here are some suggestions:

The Subject Section

The “Subject” section is very important. Some ISP providers or email programs will junk or reject email altogether if it looks like “spam”. So don’t just have a subject of something like “Latest News” . In fact be as specific as possible – you may be able to say almost everything you need to in the “Subject”

e.g. “AGM Date 21 May”
or “Arvo Tea Roster Jan-Feb”
or “Raffle Results Bride Doll”

To make it even easier for the receivers to find old emails you could prefix each subject line with a club abbreviation . The receiver could search for messages containing XYCC in the subject

e.g. “XYCC: AGM Date 21 May”
or “XYCC: Arvo Tea Roster Jan-Feb”

Attachments

You might not need to attach it at all. Could it be pasted directly into the message part of the email?

NEVER attach a document formatted in anything except .pdf or .doc .or .jpg (for photos). Documents in .docx format cannot be read by a lot of older software.

Be very careful attaching photos or ornate flyers and posters because they can be HUGE (in the number of bytes) and take ages to deliver.

Sally Liggins

Eire Cup

Undoubtedly the Cup was an interesting, challenging and exciting exercise for each team member. With four experienced team members unavailable for selection, the three first timers, Ricki Barrett, Liz Smith, and Ray Irlam found their participation a truly valuable learning curve.



(l-to-r): Callum Hyland, Ian Smith, Rob MacAdam, Ray Irlam, Liz Smith, Pam Hamilton, Claire Bamford, Ricki Barrett.

A special mention is necessary for Liz Smith whose performance was outstanding throughout the series. With four singles wins and three other very close games (2 singles losses by 1 and 2 hoops and a doubles by 1) her results were remarkable. We look forward to following her future progress and congratulate her on her brilliant contribution as a newcomer to play at interstate level.

As Rob McAdam was only available for the first three days Roger Buddle, from Victor Harbour Croquet Club, SA, was seconded to the Tassie Team.

Although Roger was not successful in the singles a TP by Callum Hyland in the doubles while playing with Roger, was certainly a great result.

In his third Eire Cup, 22 year old Callum, an exciting player with a bright future, continues to improve with three wins, two in doubles and one in singles, including successful TP's in both singles and doubles.

Rob McAdam's three wins (two doubles and one singles) and Ian Smith's three wins (one doubles and two singles) completed the winning list.

Recognising Sue Beattie's dedicated coaching and willing assistance to all team members, her unavailability as a team member was a noticeable loss to the team. We missed her vibrant personality and of course her contribution to the teams winning list.

Although our number of wins was down on past years, we should recognise the many very close games (9 games were lost by 1 or 2 hoops and another 10 by 3,4or5). Those close games could become wins next year.

As Claire Bamford and Pam Hamilton, both in their 80's hang up their blazers, it would be remiss not to mention Claire's remarkable achievements over many years -24 years as a team member and many of those as team captain of the Tasmanian Team. Pam too has been a State team member for 15 years and has made formidable team mate for Claire. Both are highly respected around Australia were given a standing ovation at the Eire Cup Presentation Dinner.

What a record and what a contribution to Tasmanian croquet. Thank You, Claire and Pam.

Finally, congratulations must go to Rob McAdam for being rewarded with a wild card nomination to the World Croquet Championships in the UK later this year. Good Luck Rob, you do us proud.

Mona promotion

On Easter Saturday MONA held their last market for the summer and we were contacted to see if we could arrange to go out there and play croquet and conduct a "Come and Try".

The theme of the market was supposed to be Alice in Wonderland croquet, with flamingos, hedgehogs and so on. However, whilst

recognising that not everyone who plays croquet is deadly serious all the time it is important that in order to promote such a game some emphasis is placed on the fun part of the game.

We were fortunate that Ian Smith, Director of School Croquet and Liz were able to come out – Ian with his bag of hoops, mallets and balls.

We set up two lawns in a roped-off area in the middle of the stalls and proceeded to play amongst ourselves.



Apart from Ian and Liz, there were June Pongratz and Nick Twaits from NewTown and eight members from Sandy Bay who were there to help and explain to any interested members of the public who might want to “Come and try”.

After a fairly slow start we were very busy – first it was mainly children who came but as the day went on more and more adults came and played – some were keen to play association croquet but mostly we played Aussie croquet and Golf croquet.



Several stall holders regretted not being able to come and have a go and we handed out leaflets and cards telling people how to get in touch

with clubs all over the state. It was surprising how many visitors were there, so we also encouraged people to contact their local club, whether in Western Australia, Queensland or Victoria.

On behalf of all our promoters we would like to thank Michelle (from Mona) who suggested the day, and of course all our willing (and press-ganged) helpers for a very enjoyable and exhausting day.

Jenny Parrott (Sandy Bay)

Croquet Promotion in Northern Tasmania

Croquet was a closed community in Launceston for some years. With the 2 clubs in the area having 40+ members the need to promote croquet was not so important but with the advent of the Northern Croquet Centre and 6 lawns there now is a need to open the sport to the public and promote the sport vigorously in the community.

St Leonards club is now a vital part of the Centre playing Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays and the club seeking of new members is ongoing.

There are 2 disabled groups using the centre weekly and 30 + School for Seniors members are playing Golf Croquet Monday morning with Four Ball offered in the afternoon.

There has been a lot of interest shown in the Mayoral Challenge where participants have been encouraged to bring cheer squads, families and friends to be spectators or participate in organized games.

In conjunction with staff of Active Launceston Come and Try sessions weekly over a 4 week period will be trialed and there has been discussions with the After School Program of staging an after school event in the future

The ongoing placing of fliers and posters in relevant places is being pursued as a promotion and brochures have been printed to pass on to the public.

To ensure the survival and the growth of the sport, Croquet players are urged to promote and encourage this enjoyable sport in the community.

Crow for Croquet

*Lee Turner
Northern Promotions Officer*

St. Patricks Day

Patsy Paine tells us that Devonport Players are seeing GREEN after a recent event to celebrate St Patrick's Day.



Playing a ball from where it lies – backwards!

A fun morning of games with a few Irish rules thrown in was followed by a delightful spread of green food.



Launceston Cup Day

Hello to all fellow croquet players from East Launceston Croquet Club. We have had a pleasant summer season with good weather enabling plenty of happy days of play.

Our records show we have had a surprising number of visits. The Summer School for Seniors over two days resulted in 34 participants attending.

A very successful social day was held on Launceston Cup Day. This day was arranged so that Seniors were able to attend and enjoyed

playing with Club Members, many thanks to Lauri Ryan for her continuing assistance with the seniors. Judy Ashton of the social committee co-ordinated the hat competition,

Winners were: Lynne Farrell (most becoming hat), Pat Byrne (best Cup theme hat), Lee Turner (sauciest hat), Bill Greenhill and Ken Philpott were the judges. Bill and Ken went on to win the fashion stakes for men, Bill was elegant with a lovely hat made by Ruth McKean and it was concocted from a black bra and red feathers and Ken was elegant in a red hat and red braces. It was fun!



(l-to-r): Back - Lynette Farrell, Lee Turner, Ken Philpott; Front - Laurie Ryan, Bill Greenhill, Pat Byrne

Neil Pearson and Rika Cummins have resigned from our social committee and Ros. Power will be away for a few months. Chris. Pontin Lynne Farrell and Ruth McKean along with Judy Ashton will now be responsible for organising the fun! We have arranged a breakfast for Sunday 21st April at the Sebel.

Royal Park fashions

An optional uniform, consisting of a range of tops in club colours, was introduced at Royal Park last year.



Our photo shows four lady members clad in their new attire - Phyll Bradshaw; Pat Traill; Aileen Waldren; Lois Richards.

Vale Peg Nichols

We sadly report the passing of a Kingston life-member Peg Nichols.

Peg had a long association with croquet, having joined her mother at NewTown croquet Club at the age of 17.

Both she and her sister Dot Millington were members there and both at different times represented Tasmania in State teams.

After peg married she had a recess in here career while she and her husband Graeme reared their two children, but when Dot and David Johnstone approached her to help set up the Kingston Croquet Club in 1981 she enthusiastically responded and was an inaugural member.

Over the years she has held the positions of treasurer and referee, and has been an inspirational coach and mentor giving friendly assistance to all.

The wider croquet community will no doubt remember Peg, as for 17 years she and Graeme entered the Gold Coast Tweed Croquet Tournament which they enjoyed very much.

We will miss this cheerful gentle lady.

Claire Bamford

Farewell to a club stalwart

It is sad to record that Royal Park's long serving Secretary Carol Steel has lost her battle with emphysema. Since transferring from Cosgrove Park when that club folded Carol served five successive Royal Park club presidents, and with husband Peter making many of the club's trophies and shields, was the glue that held the club together through all the recent changes in the Launceston croquet scene.

Such was her central role in the club and devotion to duty that, confined to home by her respirator, the club committee relocated their meetings to her home so she could continue in her role.

Northern Mayoral Challenge

The Northern Tasmanian Croquet Centre hosted the Mayor of Launceston, Ald. Albert Van Zettan, and the Deputy Mayors of Meander Valley (Cr. Bob Loone) and of West

Tamar (Cr. Christina Holmdahl) for the 2013 Mayoral Challenge.

Once again, Launceston's civic leader proved victorious. Both visitors expressed interest in developing croquet facilities in their municipalities, and Bob Loone enquired about the cost of hoops, balls and mallets to support the croquet group starting up in Westbury (see following).

New croquet group

The Westbury University of the 3rd Age have started playing croquet on the Westbury Village Green. We wish them every success and hope that down the track they will become an affiliated TCA club.



Photo courtesy of The Examiner. Lyn Guthrie, Barry Reynolds, Jacqui Reynolds, Jan Johnson, Rena Stein, Florida Rickard, Hans Stein, Coral Smith, Lois Catchlove, Ingrid OSullivan (seated), Robin Cox, Joyce Harris

Coaching

At the beginning of February Greg Bury, National Director of Golf Croquet was in the State to train Golf Croquet coaches and on the last day, conduct a general training session for all interested players. On his first day he conducted a training session for our State Association team at Kingston C.C. Apart from the drills and problem solving exercises Greg spoke about the Psychology of winning and attitude which was well received.

The following day at New Town C.C. the morning session was to go through the Level O (Beginners) training manual and twelve players took part, including four from the North of the State. After lunch the Level one course was completed with eleven coaches assessed for the Level One accreditation and three presenters were then appointed to continue the training of coaches.



On the final day about forty players took part in the general coaching session at Sandy Bay, consisting of drills, exercises, some fairly light-hearted games and concluded with a race around the hoops by Greg and Callum (the winner). It was pleasing to have at least ten players come down from the north to take part and participation from five southern clubs, including Derwent Valley C.C. The weather for the three days was perfect and the warm, sunny weather had everyone reaching for sun screen and hats . –

It was one of the most successful coaching clinics we have had and Greg’s enthusiasm and ability to impart his knowledge was greatly appreciated by all who attended and left other players wondering why they hadn’t come. We look forward to the next visit!

Warm-ups

Some Do’s and Don’ts



Having been Tournament or Venue manager for at least ten events this year I have arrived early to check court settings and make them available for practice. It has surprised me how differently players go about warming up for an event.

A good starting point is to know the venue, starting time and conditions for play. In the past year I have seen players arrive at the wrong venue, or turn up for an AC tournament expecting to play GC, or not know whether and how time limits will be applied, or be surprised at lawns which are faster or slower than those “back home”.

The best warm-up is the *extended practice*. Many events allow practice on the courts the day before the tournament starts or for an hour

before play starts for the day (check with the Tournament Manager).

Arrive at the venue early, check whether hoop running is permitted, then practice the shots you think you will need during the event and learn the geography of the courts. In AC, can you do a split the full length of the lawn? How hard is it to take off to a perfect rush position? In GC, can you get in front of hoop 1 from corner 4? Can you do a jump shot if the court is harder or softer than you are used to? It is good practice to develop a routine as the mind and body quickly responds to familiar activities.

On the day of the event a warm shower is a good start to the day. Particularly if the venue requires a long car journey, upper body stretches and shoulder and hip exercises are advisable before walking onto the lawns.

On the day of the tournament you will generally be allowed a *five minute warn-up*. Don’t waste this time – have a plan developed in practice, and go into your standard routine.

Reviewing lawn speeds, particularly if lawns have been watered or mown before play starts is important. Hoop running is probably a waste of valuable time – a 3 11/16 hoop is the same anywhere!

In a multi-day event, or when one event quickly follows another, it is important to factor in recovery activities. Nobody can maintain peak performance all the time. Working out when you need to be at your best, and how you relax both mind and body are important questions that need to be answered. Going for a walk, having a mallet-free day, reading a book or simply being a spectator could all help in recovery.

Bob Godfrey



Late again! That’s all you ever think of:
croquet, croquet, croquet!