



April 2015

From the Editor

A big thank you to those members and clubs who have contributed to this issue. Remember this is your magazine and every member of Croquet Tasmania is invited to submit any articles that they believe might interest other members.

Facing the Future.

Croquet Tasmania's website www.croquettas.com is becoming quite widely used. Our members are realising the benefits of instant access to up-to-date information about upcoming events, immediate results of current competitions, down-loadable event conditions, entry forms, rules, practice suggestions etc.

The site is updated constantly during the events season and regularly through the rest of the year.

Two recent improvements are the Breaking News headline at the top of the first 'page' and the News 'page' with extra details about club fundraising events, recent winners, and even the occasional photo.

And now Croquet Tasmania has a Facebook presence as well. So our local croquet news and the game itself will become more and more widely known. If you already use Facebook just search for Croquet Tasmania and then "LIKE" it. Otherwise make sure your facebooking friends and relations do LIKEwise.

PS. Those of our members who haven't yet got onto the Internet need have no fears – important information will continue to be displayed on Club Notice Boards and available from Club secretaries.

Forthcoming Events

- | | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| April 4 to 12 | | NTasCC Easter Gala Week |
| May 30 | - | TCA Annual General Meeting (and most Club AGMs also in May). |
| September | - | ACA Golf Croquet Championships, Gold Medal and Interstate Cup |
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ACA GC BRONZE MEDAL, TASMANIA

The ACA Golf Croquet Bronze Medal for Tasmania was played at NTasCC over the three days March 28, 29 and 30 with eight invited players, three from each of Hobart and Launceston and two from Devonport.

Day one saw Rob McAdam and Ruth McKean leading the field with neither having lost a game. Rob continued this form through day two with a

clear lead but hotly pursued by Ruth and Graham Keating.

Rob was challenged on the final day beating Graham to 6 in both games after trailing 3-6 in both games and Ruth took the first game of their match to 6 (Rob's only loss for the competition), lost the second to 3 and the last to 6.

The Bronze Medal was won by Rob McAdam with Ruth McKean runner up, Graham Keating third and Gina Kirkland fourth.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have come to a quieter part of the year after a solid period of competitive play since the start of pennant games last year. Each week end since Christmas seems to have had a Croquet Tas competition and for those "swingers" who play both forms of the game it has been hard to pick and choose.

Congratulations to all winners at all levels, I know quite a few people entered a competition to "see what it is like" and found out that it can be a lot of fun playing against people from other clubs whom we may not see very often.

Particular congratulations to a regular visitor to the State in Leslie Easton from Port Macquarie in NSW who survived a tough tournament to win the State Open GC Championship early in February.

The continuing discussion on venues for each of the State tournaments between north and south will perhaps always be with us, but I know that as more and more players have a go at travelling away to play the easier they find it to do. Like a lot of jobs, the thinking about it is harder than the actual doing.

As I pen this, the State AC team is in Sydney playing Australian Championships and the Eire Cup interstate teams competition. Well done to skipper Callum Hyland for his meritorious second (the Silver Medal) in the ACA Gold Medal play against the best single player from each State. Tassie names are appearing in the finals brackets at some levels in the Australian singles as well.

Plans are going ahead with all the details we need to cover to run the national GC Tournaments next September, and I know there will be some fundraising fun events held at both ends of the State to support this effort. Make sure you are in a position to enjoy them.

I would also wish well those members who have had or having "off season repairs" done. Peter Tracey, Daryl Jacobs, and June Pongratz having the odd joints loosened I know of, and there may be others. Good luck.

Henry B

THE 40TH DEVONPORT SUMMER TOURNAMENT

This Tournament was the brain child of our then President Geraldine Scott to celebrate 50 years of Croquet in Devonport (yes that means later this year we will be doing something special for our 90th year ...WATCH THIS SPACE) so it was only fitting that her son, Dion, was present to light the 40th candle. Players were welcomed by Ben Fidler President of The Devonport Bowls and Croquet Club and our two Croquet Life Members Aileen Gilbert and Barbara Clements had the honour of cutting the cake.



This year's weekend was filled with its usual fun, food and frivolity including a decorated hat competition for Australia Day, a Melodramatic performance by Eastern Shore at the evening meal and an unending supply of delicious goodies from the catering kitchen; oh yes and we did play some games of croquet.

Although numbers were down the competition was fierce with the North South Challenge (this year Devonport v Eastern Shore) won by the South 49-40.

Under a new rule where one cannot win 2 years in a row Ian Smith was disqualified (also he was far too

energetic and was seen running on the court) and the spoils of victory were awarded to Henry Burbury.

For the first time since I joined this event I thought the weather was going to let me down but the rain held off until we had dismantled the last marquee and everyone (except Chris West) was comfortably inside.

Its now time to start planning the next one so mark January 23rd and 24th 2016 on your calendar and I will see you all at our 41st.

Refer also to the "Help Wanted" ad following this article.



Patsy

HELP WANTED

Devonport Croquet recently celebrated its 40th Summer Tournament. As all participants know the emphasis is not on wining but on having fun and as we prepared to write a history of the event we never been documented. Therefore if you have won a Summer Tournament or know of someone who has done so in the past could you forward the name (and year) to our Club Secretary Chris West at devonportcroquet@gmail.com

TASMANIAN GOLF CROQUET OPEN SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

The championship was conducted over the weekend Friday January 30 to Sunday February 1 at the Northern Tasmanian Croquet Centre. Twenty five entries were received, including two from interstate and the majority of the 2014 State Team.

Contestant were divided into six seeded blocks with the winners of each of these primary blocks and the winners of two repechage blocks, made up of the second place getters in the primary blocks, contesting the knockout stage to determine the eventual winner.

Block winners were Graham Keating, Lesley Easton, June Pongratz, Ruth McKean, Hugh Denny and Rob McAdam with Grant Wilson and Henry Burbury winning the two repechage blocks. The knockout stage was evenly contested with all bar one match taking three games.

The final was won by Lesley Easton (Port Macquarie) from Henry Burbury (New Town) 7/4, 6/7, 7/5 with Graham Keating (Eastern Shore) beating Hugh Denny (Sandy Bay) 7/2 in the 3rd/4th playoff.

Losers in the first round of the knockout played a Z knockout with the final being won by Rob McAdam (Kingston) from Grant Wilson (East Launceston) 7/2.

A Plate was contested in two blocks by six of the players eliminated in the primary block competition. The Plate final was between two Devonport players, Chris West and Roberta Campbell, with Chris winning 7/5



PHOTO: Finalists Lesley Easton & Henry Burbury

EAST LAUNCESTON REPORT

Hello to all Tassie croquet friends from the East Launceston Croquet Club.

East Launceston Croquet Club celebrated its' Centenary in style on Saturday, 21st March, 2015.

The format for the day was games from 1300 hours followed by High Tea at 1530 hours. Period costume was encouraged and many attendees dressed accordingly. The fashions were many and varied

High Tea was the highlight; crisp white tablecloths covering tables on the beautiful green lawn under clear blues skies, colourful fine china along with champagne flutes created a fabulous atmosphere made even more fabulous by the interesting conversations and laughter.

A comprehensive history of the Club was compiled with many photos and newspaper cuttings from the past on display for all to read and to bring back valued memories. Many interesting stories were heard being relayed and resulting in many sentimental memories along with much joviality.

The Club was very honoured to have members from Clubs in all three geographic zones of the State attending our celebrations.

Many members participated in games of Golf Croquet and the winners of the Centenary Doubles were Jenny MacDonald and Grant Willson from E.L.C.C.

May the Club continue in its' present successful way for another 100 years and beyond.

Our Club has been well represented at recent tournaments i.e. New Town and the Tas. Women's Open, held at St. Leonards. Congratulations to Ruth McKean who performed extremely well in both events. Ruth McKean, Lee Turner and Lynne Farrell travelled to Devonport for the 40th Anniversary Tournament over the long week-end in January. Thanks from E.L.C.C. to Devonport Club for hosting such a fun event. Several players from E.L.C.C. are planning to play in the Easter Parade to be held at St. Leonards. Thanks to Bob Godfrey for organizing the event again this year. The Mayoral Challenge was held on the 12th March, 2015 and once again it was fun with several E.L.C.C. members acting as mentors for the visiting mayors and politicians and also assisting with catering. Thank you to Lee Turner for her

enthusiastic efforts in ensuring the annual event continues and we look forward to next year.

Currently the Club is playing a round robin handicap tournament which enhances our commitment to all players especially our new members. Midweek pennant starts in April and our teams are looking forward to competing and enjoying the friendship of the member teams of the NRCC.

Lynne Farrell,
President,
East Launceston Croquet Club.

TASSIE TALES PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

All Clubs are urged to submit items for publication in "Tassie Tales".

The goal is to produce editions in January, April, July and October of each year.

Closing dates for copy in 2015 are: -

July	June 14th
October	September 13 th
January 2016	December 27 th

Please email contributions to
peter.tracey@bigpond.com

CORRECTIONS

In the January issue we wrongly reported winners of two events at the NTasCC GC Championships:-

- B Grade doubles should have read Kaye Jeffery and Jan Barnes; and
- C Grade singles – Roger Ardley

ESCC FULL BISQUE COMPETITION

The recent Full Bisque Competition conducted by the ESCC was enjoyed by 10 participants.

Designed for B grade players within the range of 8-16 handicap level every player enjoyed bisques in the 2.5hour games .With a base line of 4 bisques, available bisques ranged from 4-12 with no more than one third to be used in any one turn. All competitors found this unusual use of bisques challenging and by the end of the tournament had learned much concerning handicap play and the use of bisques

The competition was played in two blocks of 5. Block winners contested the final and the 2nd place getters in each block played for 3rd and 4th positions. ..

Heather Lovell played brilliantly in all her block games pegging out in every game but one. Heather beat Peter Tracey in the final with another peg out (26/10). Congratulations Heather your win was well deserved especially in view of your recent bereavement. Well done Peter Tracey runner up and also Brian Stafford who finished 3rd by beating Connie Allison (21/10).

Thank you to all competitors for their cooperation and assistance in making this tournament such a success.

Pam Hamilton.

ADVERTISEMENT



Come along to the Fashion Parade at Blue Illusion, Magnet Court, Sandy Bay on Wednesday, July 8 from 6.00 until 7.00 p.m.

No entry charge, champers and nibbles provided and a \$25 voucher to spend on the night.

For bookings please contact Deidre Parker

Tel: 0438 622 924,
Email: deidreparker9351@bigpond.com

FASHION PARADE (continued)

This is a fund raising event for Kingston Croquet Club.

A similar event will be held on the second Wednesday in August to raise funds for Croquet Tasmania towards the conduct of the Interstate Golf Croquet Championships to be held in late September.

ST HELENS REPORT

Hi from the sunny North east!

Our St Helens Croquet Club is a small but friendly and enthusiastic group who play on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Our excellent facilities (two great lawns) are located in the St Helens Sports grounds and are accessed from our entrance on Medea Cove Esplanade.

Commencement times are:

Tuesdays Golf Croquet - 9.00 a.m

Thursdays Ricochet - 9.00 a.m

Saturdays Golf Croquet - 9.00 a.m

NOTE: Starting times are delayed to 9.30 in winter.

If you are travelling or holidaying in the North East, please feel very welcome to join us for a game.

Phone 63762352 (Eddie) or 63763794 (Carol)



KINGSTON REPORT

In the first quarter of 2015 five new members, Barbara Phillips, Grant and Janette Wiggins, Margaret and Neil Pinkard, have joined the Club

Since the last issue of Tassie Tales KCC members have had many successes in competitions: -

AC	Men's Champion	Rob McAdam
	Ladies' Champion	Elaine Roomes
	C Grade Champion	Kathleen Lines
	ESCC Full Bisque	Heather Lovell
GC	Gold Medal	Rob McAdam
	Silver Medal	Kathleen Lines
	Women's Champion	Sue Beattie

Lawn Fees

In February 2014 our lawns were badly affected by very hot weather and a problem with our irrigation system that resulted in extreme deterioration of sections of lawn 2. Since then the patience of members and the dedication of our greenkeeper, Malcolm Godfrey, has returned both lawns to excellent condition so that they now compare favourably with any lawn in Australia with lawn #1 running at 12 seconds and #2 at 10.5 seconds. However, this improvement comes at a cost and to ensure that the lawns stay at this top standard lawn fees will **increase from 6th April** to \$5 first use and \$2 subsequent uses in any one week for members and \$5 per use for visitors.

NORTHERN TASMANIA CROQUET CENTRE REPORT

The past few months have been a busy time at the Centre. Several State events have been held. The monthly Egyptian Golf Croquet began in January, with Chris Russell and Rod Tait tying for the overall win, both players showing promise for the future. A monthly Association day has been organised and all Northern Clubs have shown interest.

The School for Seniors is now playing in its first term for 2015 with 40 participants involved and 3 disabled groups are attending and enjoying the time on the lawns. We have also had 1 Corporate Group and a Walking Group for Croquet and a meal.

The Mayoral Challenge was a huge success with Mayors from Dorset, Meander Valley, Georgetown,

West Tamar and Launceston participating. The eventual winner from Dorset was crowned, the other participants were awarded a happy face and all received a Certificate of Participation. The evening finished with an enjoyable B.B.Q.

Events in the near future are a refereeing session, a T.C.A. event, the Easter Gala, and at the end of April the Golf Croquet Pennants will start.

The Northern committee for the Nationals are liaising with the N.T.C.C. committee to extend the centre to 8 lawns, a mammoth task. The two containers have to be relocated and all lawns to be re marked. It is planned that this work will be done in the near future.

Promotion & Publicity A meeting was held at the NTasCC to organise Croquet promotional events in the North for 2015. It was reported that Items were printed in Examiner inviting the community to come and try. There was exceptional reporting of Tasmanian Women's Singles in the Examiner newspaper and a car drop was done at the Centre on a busy Little Athletics day.

It was decided to have promotion for the Easter Gala on radio. A promotion event at the local Meadow Mews is planned for the future and there was need to print more fliers and brochures to distribute in the community.

Lee Turner

GC - DIRECTOR'S CUT

At the invitation of the Golf Croquet Director ten people contested a Round Robin Competition over the weekend of 28/29 March.

The games were hotly contested with a third of all games being won at the thirteenth hoop.

All players managed to win at least 2 games with Colin Kirkland (Devonport) and Peter Tracey (Kingston) only losing one of their 9 games. The prestigious trophy (pictured) was awarded to Peter who finished with the higher hoop difference.



GREG BURY COACHING SESSIONS

During the first week of February 2015 Greg Bury, ACA Director of Coaching, conducted four days of intensive coaching, one at St. Leonards and three at Sandy Bay Croquet Club.

In Launceston, thirty-one players attended overall, fourteen of whom attended the Association Croquet session. Many thanks to Lee Turner and Kaye Jeffery for arranging a billet for Greg.

In Hobart, twenty players attended the Association session, sixteen the coaching for coaches and twenty five the Golf Croquet session on Friday.

Overall there were just over 80 participants which was an excellent result and shows that there is a good response to visiting coaches conducting this kind of event and it should continue on at least a yearly basis. As the ACA paid Greg's travel expenses there was no cost to Croquet Tasmania and a small profit (the surplus from the Registration Fee of \$5.00 per player less Club expenses) will be forwarded to the State Treasurer.

Amongst the positive feed back that was received many attendees found Greg's stated enthusiasm most inspiring and that he saw coaching as a key factor in attracting new players and retaining Club Members. Another comment was that the session was extremely useful and thoroughly worthwhile; Greg's introduction to attitude, including the fact that a player can decide how far he wants to take his game and the mantra "rush, stop-shot, floating pivot" is now firmly ingrained.

Greg is resigning from his position as ACA Director of Coaching and High Performance Officer at the end on March - his will be a hard act to follow but this last Coaching will be remembered for enthusiasm, initiative and innovation.

Jenny Parrott,

CT Director of Coaching.

NOTICE TO ALL GOLF CROQUET PLAYERS

Golf Croquet Referees needed

The Australian Golf Croquet Championships are to be held in Tasmania in September this year. In the South the GC Gold Medal is to be held at the Sandy Bay Croquet Club from September 15 to 17, the Men's Championship is to be held at the four Southern Clubs from September 18 to 21. In the North the Women's Championship will be competed for at the Northern Tasmanian Croquet Centre from September 18 to 21, followed by the Interstate Shield from September 23 to 27 at the NTas Croquet Centre and the nearby Soccer Centre.

We are required to provide sufficient Referees at each venue to efficiently referee the events. In the South we need as a minimum 3 to 4 Referees at each Club to enable a satisfactory roster for each day. At present, we do not have sufficient Referees at most Clubs to do this so we need your help.

I, with the assistance of experienced GC Referees, will be organising training sessions for GC Referees and GC players who wish to train as Referees. The first of such sessions was held at the Northern Tasmanian Croquet Centre on Sunday 22 March. Similar sessions will be held in the South in April/early May with dates to be arranged with the Clubs. Watch your Club notice board for details.

Following the training day potential Referees will be given the opportunity to complete a home study course on the rules followed by tuition on court work and a final test.

In addition, Referees are required to complete an on line Officiating General Principles Course.

Being a Referee will improve your game, improve competition, making it fairer and free of conflict and will continue to promote croquet as a sport.

As a further incentive to help your Club, I note that in the Southern Pennant rules for 2014/15 each pennant team is required to have available for home games an Accredited GC Referee.

Please consider helping your Club, Croquet Tasmania and our present Referees out in this important role.

Graeme Denehey CT Director of Refereeing

FROM THE ACA DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL CROQUET

When I was appointed ACA Director of School Croquet I sent a letter to the President and Secretary of each of the states to suggest that I meet them or their representative at a time to suit during the recent Eire Cup. Queensland did not reply so I met with the other states.

All states were asked the same questions – What do you do? How can I assist? Are you interested in promoting school croquet? Do you agree the youth of today is the future of croquet?

Tasmania runs a successful day for Primary Schools once a year in Hobart.

South Australia has a few Primary schools and about six Secondary schools offering croquet as a sport. They are hoping to start university clubs. South Australia does not charge Affiliation Fees for students

Victoria has about a dozen Secondary students playing in Deniliquin and a couple of schools in Ballarat. There are also a few children and grandchildren of current club members who play occasionally.

Western Australia is working with UWA students at Nedlands

New South Wales is the only state to run a state championship at primary and secondary level – not that there are large numbers. All competitors are given a Certificate of Participation, The winner and runner up receive a medal and the Secondary winner a perpetual trophy.

Clubs who conduct school sport activities are given some monetary assistance by Croquet NSW. The CNSW Executive has been approached to waive Affiliation Fees for school students

All states indicated that they would like to run state championships. I did indicate that I am prepared to visit their states if they think that would help. South Australia has asked that I would address their clubs.

With the support of each state representative I intend to run an Australian Schools Championship in late November this year. It will be Golf Croquet. **THERE WILL BE NO ENTRY FEE.**

The venue is yet to be confirmed. I have been informed that Cairnlea is unlikely to be available so I am to approach Maitland Club and Ken Boal has offered the use of Rich River.

Jacky McDonald

Director of School Croquet ACA

AUSTRALIAN OPEN MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Last month, seven of our top AC players – Elizabeth Brinsdon, Sue Beattie, Ricki Barrett, Elaine Roomes, Ian Smith, Callum Hyland and Bob Beattie – headed to Sydney to compete in the Australian Men's and Women's Championships. 36 men and 22 women participated in the events and all the Tasmanians put in good performances, outstanding amongst which were Elizabeth Brinsdon and Elaine Roomes in the Women's. Elizabeth was runner-up in the Plate Event – losing in the 3rd game of the best-of-3 final and Elaine was the winner of the W Event – again in the 3rd game of a best-of-3 final. In the Men's Callum Hyland made it to the Quarter Finals for the first time.

EIRE CUP.

Following the Men's and Women's, all seven players, augmented by the strength of Graham Keating, stayed to compete for Tasmania in the AC Interstate Championships, known as the Eire Cup. Although Tasmania finished 6th out of 6, all fought hard in every match and performed better against the top teams (New South Wales and Victoria, who were the standout performers this year and who finished 1st and 2nd respectively) than other states who finished above Tasmania. It was a difficult year for the Tasmanian men – the other states fielding particularly strong men's teams this time around – but the women's side fared better, all four of our ladies putting in strong performances, the standout for consistency being Sue Beattie who won 5 out of her 10 singles matches and came close in all the others. In the mixed doubles, all our pairs worked well together and had some close games, although wins were few and far between. Most successful, however, were Elaine Roomes and Callum Hyland who managed to win 3 out of 5 in their doubles, a great effort considering the calibre of their opponents!