



July 2015

From the Editor

Last issue I thanked contributors for articles supplied for inclusion in Tassie Tales. Contributions for this issue have not been so numerous despite reminders sent to all clubs. Remember, this is your journal, if you wish it to continue it needs your support.

This month we are including an article on security with an emphasis on its application to members addresses and the private nature thereof.

With permission of the author we republish a letter sent to the editor of the Croquet NSW Newsletter on the subject of handicaps.

COMING EVENTS

Jul 25-26 – St Helens Weekend
Aug 1-2 – CTas GC Open Doubles, NTas CC
Aug 15-16 – GC Classic, NTas CC
Aug 28-30 – AC Men's & Women's Medals,
Sandy Bay & Eastern Shore
Sep 15-27 – ACA GC Championships, Hobart &
Launceston
Nov 28-29 – Devonport 24 Hour

OFFICE HOLDERS

At the Croquet Tasmania AGM held at ESCC on May 30 the following were elected to office:-

President	Robert Godfrey
Vice President	Henry Burbury
Secretary	June Pongratz
Asst Secretary	Sally Liggins
Treasurer	Graham Keating
Northern Clubs Representative	Lee Turner
Southern Clubs Representative	Peter Tracey

KEEP AHEAD OF THE eJONESES AND MAKE YOUR CONTACTS INVISIBLE

Because every day there seems to be some new way that strangers can gather information about us and use it for their own ends, legal or illegal, we need to be careful about guarding our own and our fellow-members' privacy and safety:

1. Ensure your club members' addresses and phone numbers are not easily accessible to a casual visitor to the club rooms. It is extremely easy for a visitor to use quickly and unobtrusively a smart phone to photograph the list, and then perhaps sell it to a marketer, make nuisance calls, post it on Facebook or derive a member's address via the white pages.

One suggestion is to hold the membership lists in a folder kept in a location known to all the members but not obvious to visitors, perhaps in a drawer handy to the phone.

2. When sending an email to a list of people use put the list in the 'BCC:' (Blind Copy) field not the 'To:' or 'CC:' field

This is because our Email addresses are personal information and should be kept as private as possible. If the list of recipients is in the "To:" field or the "CC:" field of an email then everyone who receives it can see everyone else's address. More seriously if one of the recipients' computers becomes infected with a computer virus it can collect all the email addresses it finds in the message and send a copy of itself to each one. **So everyone's computer could become infected.**

Avoid the risks by putting the recipient list in the "BCC:" field and your own address in the "To:" field. Then as a matter of courtesy, put a note in the first line to describe the invisible list e.g. "Sent to New Town Club members"

GC HiLo CHAMPIONSHIP

GC HiLo Championships were held at Northern Tas Croquet Centre over the weekend of 20 21 June. A great turnout with a total of sixteen pairs from all clubs with the exception of St Helens. For many of the players it was their first time in a Croquet Tasmania championship: all agreed that the competition was most enjoyable and new players commented on how one was able to learn both technique and tactics by playing against players with a lower handicap.

The St Leonards lawns presented somewhat of a challenge early in the morning on both days being covered with a thick hoar frost. However, as the day proceeded this thawed and contestants enjoyed lovely sunny days with minimal breezes.



The Lawns

and

The Contestants



Contestants were divided into four blocks of four, each block playing a round robin best of two game matches through Saturday. The winners in each block,

Denis MacDonald/Lynne Farrell

Daryl Jacobs/John Colquhoun

Hugh Denny/Kaye Denny

Chris West/Dee Gibson,

played best of three games semi-finals and a final on Sunday.

Chris West/Dee Gibson and the Dennys won through to the final with the former triumphing 5/7, 7/5, 7/2

Eight of the pairs which had not qualified for the finals contested a Knockout Plate on Sunday, the final of which was won by the McKeanes from Lee Turner and Paul Boer 5/4.

KINGSTON CC 19 POINT TOURNAMENT

Kingston CC invited players from all Tasmanian clubs to take part in its inaugural 19 point tournament over the three days of the Queen's Birthday weekend. Although the 19 point game is provided for in the croquet rules this is the first time, that such a tournament has been played in Tasmania.

Entries, including from several state team members, were received from all southern clubs. Unfortunately, owing to the proximity of the CT AGM weekend, no northerners participated.

The thirteen entrants were divided into two seeded blocks and played their 19 point games with a time limit of 90 minutes. Block play continued through Saturday, Sunday and into Monday morning.

Blocks were won by Graham Keating and Rob McAdam with second places to Daryl Jacobs and Sue Beattie. Sue beat Graham and Rob beat Daryl in the semis with Rob and Sue playing the final and Graham and Daryl contesting a 3rd/4th playoff.

Rob won the final 9/8 and Graham won the 3rd/4th playoff 10/9.

Prizemoney of \$175 (1/3rd of the entry fees) was distributed among the first four placegetters.

Kingston volunteers provided wonderful and copious morning and afternoon tea on each day and the club sold lunches at a modest cost having invited participants to pre-order.

The tournament has been approved by CT for inclusion in next year's programme and it is intended that the tournament should become an annual event

YOUR HANDICAP & YOU

(A letter from Roy Vize of the Forster Croquet Club to the Editor of Croquet NSW Newsletter)

I have noticed quite a bit of discussion on handicapping recently. Much of it suggesting that the system we use has got it wrong and that it is unfair. I have also heard comments from many of our better players who won't play in handicap events because it is too difficult to give away extra turns and still have a chance of winning. The arguments really show how little is understood about our handicapping system and why we use it.

It is a good system and it produces as fair a result as any handicapping system can.

I have been involved in sport for some 70 years now and in that period have played at a good level in five sports that used handicapping systems. I have not as yet been involved in one in which the participants believed that the handicap of an opponent that beat them was appropriate. They will invariably blame the handicapping system rather than their own performance.

The thing about sport that most participants never get to understand is that the individual performance of each person varies to a significant degree as time elapses hourly. Graham Innocent (Handicap 0) wins more often than most because he is able to play at that optimum level more often than the rest of us. Most of us think we play at nearly the same level all of the time, it is simply not true.

A player on a 10 handicap will not have the success rate that Graham has with individual shots nor be able to apply the consistent skill level he has each time he walks onto the court. At the same time he may be quite capable of playing an individual shot that is quite as good as and sometimes even better than what Graham can produce. His performance level fluctuates over a much wider range so success is not achieved as often.

Our handicapping system determines a mean value to apply to each of us. It is generally based on an average level of skill that we display in our matches. It cannot make

adjustment for the variations in the quality of an individual play at any particular time or the general skill we show when playing in each individual match.

A second factor is the level of comfort we achieve in what we are doing. If comfortable we can relax and enjoy our game. When comfortable, we can perform nearer to our best level. If we go into a tournament tense and uncertain of our ability it is difficult to enjoy the game and we are unlikely to perform at our best level. If we go in thinking that our opponent is too good for us we will rarely win. If we think about missing when it is time to run a hoop we will usually miss. The value of confidence is almost impossible to estimate.

Again our better players are more relaxed in tournament play, more focused on achieving the result they want so are not as affected by the pressure of the matches. In club games, the comfort level often permits players to play above the level they would expect to achieve in tournament play, and their handicap can be artificially lowered by this phenomena. In tournament play the reverse can happen and their handicap can be artificially raised. It is here the handicapper needs to exercise a great deal of common sense and should award the player something mid-way between these levels.

When we look at the results that are obtained in our so called 'Handicap Championships' the winners are consistently from the better end of the handicap scale. In recent years, Graham Innocent, I, Dick Smith and Peter Coles, have won in the singles. Longer handicapped players qualify for the knockout rounds but their challenge ends there. Doubles has been much the same, Graham Innocent and I with wins in both the NSW and Australian Doubles have been prominent in recent years despite giving every player in the fields a handicap start. At Deniliquin we lost 2 of the first 5 games and looked to be out of it. From there on the second day, we won every game.

Let us not be so critical of the handicapper, it is an onerous task: accept that handicap play is about creating a competition where players of all skill levels can compete competitively on their day. It is simply a game and we will perform to whatever level is available to us on the day.

Clearly the better players go in with an advantage and nothing that is done to the handicapping system will make any difference to the fact that consistent performance will win out more often than not in the longer term. Certainly a much greater level of achievement would be felt if we had larger fields and more of the better level of players involved in our National Handicap events.

EAST LAUNCESSTON REPORT

Greetings to all members of the croquet family from the East Launceston Croquet Club.

Several members from our Club travelled to Hobart in May for the T.C.A. Annual general meeting.

The meeting was followed by a successful evening dinner at the Geilston Bay Boat Club and incorporated presentation of awards.

Sunday saw the playing of the North v South Challenge which involved both Association and Golf Croquet. It was a hard fought event and congratulations to the South who won 8-6. Many thanks goes to the Eastern Shore Club for their hospitality and delicious winter fare.

Several members from East have entered the Croquet Tas. Hi/Lo doubles event to be played at the N.T.C.C. on the 20/21 June (*Lynne Farrell and Denis MacDonald won the event - Ed*). It is great that we have some relatively new players in Barbara Hogben, Paul Boer and Thomas McKean participating. Paul has recently won the Novice event at the Club.

Our club is looking forward to the Nationals in September. We have several members assisting in varying roles to ensure that this is a great event. We will also be very proud to see the members of our Club who are chosen for the State team in action on the lawn. It should all be great and we wish everyone all the best.

Tassie winter has set in so let's embrace, rug up and enjoy our fabulous game.

Lynne Farrell

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WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR LAWN IS OUT OF ACTION *(Contributed by Patsy Paine)*

1. Find another Croquet Club

Thanks to the Westbury University of the 3rd Age for a very enjoyable afternoon on the Village Green. The rules were unique, the Croquet shots challenging (note: do not choose the Brown Ball when there is autumn leaves on the ground), the welcome warm, the laughter loud and the jumping lesson very successful.



2. Find any relatively flat hard surface, a set of Garden hoops, warm clothing and a sense of adventure.

Twenty hearty souls from the Devonport Croquet Division tried their hand at Beach Croquet at Turners Beach on May 11



SANDY BAY CC CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sandy Bay reports the winners of its club championships below: -

Event	Winner	Runner Up
Association Croquet		
Open Singles (-3-20)	Callum Hyland	Bob Bye
B Grade Singles (9-20)	David Johnston	Brian Stafford
C Grade Singles (14-20)	Tony Hocking	Mignon Johnston
Rene Hortle Novice Event	Yvonne Shaw	Ann Shaw
Max McLean Handicap	Brian Stafford	David Johnston
Coralie Turner Handicap	Fritha Neilsen	Mignon Johnston
Golf Croquet		
Open Singles	Graham Keating	Bob Bye
B Grade Singles (8-12)	Graeme Cake	Cecelia Stevenson

**TASSIE TALES
PUBLICATION
SCHEDULE**

All Clubs/Members are invited to submit items for publication in "Tassie Tales".

Closing dates for copy in 2015 are: -

October 13/09/2015
January 2016 27/12/2015

Please email contributions to
peter.tracey@bigpond.com

ST HELENS CROQUET WEEKEND



25-26 July 2015

at St Helens Croquet Club

The cost for the weekend will be \$20, which includes morning & afternoon tea and lunch on the Saturday. The dinner will be at Tidal Waters again with a choice of a main and dessert at a cost of \$32. A vegetarian option is available. For more details contact Eddie & Lesley Burns, Ph 63762352, email - lesleydonaldson8@gmail.com

ENTRIES TO Patsy Paine: patsy.paine12@gmail.com

Numbers are limited so get in fast!

TASMANIA TO HOST GC CHAMPIONSHIPS

This year the ACA has awarded the privilege of conducting the annual Interstate Shield and associated Men's and Women's Singles Championship and ACA Gold Medal to Croquet Tasmania.

To give those visiting us from the North Island the opportunity to see more of The Island State Croquet Tasmania has shared playing venues between Hobart and Launceston.

The Gold Medal will be held at the Sandy Bay Club in Hobart from Tuesday 15th September to Thursday 17th. A welcome function for GM entrants and officials will be held in the Sandy Bay clubrooms at 16.30 on that Monday.

The Men's Championship will be conducted at the four Hobart based clubs, Sandy Bay, Eastern Shore, Kingston and New Town, All four clubs will make lawns available for practice on Thursday 17th. Registration will be at Sandy Bay CC only, between noon and 16.00.

Following registration a welcome reception is to be held at Government House for players and officials from 18.00 to 19.00.

The championships will be played at all four southern clubs through September 18th to 20th.

The Women's championship will be held in Launceston at the wonderful eight lawn



Northern Tasmanian Croquet Centre at St Leonards from Friday September 18th to Monday 20th.

A Welcome High Tea for players and officials will be held at NTCC from 16.00 to 17.30 that evening.

As the Interstate Shield is to be held in Launceston Tuesday, September 21st, has been set aside as a rest and/or travel day. NTCC and four lawns at Birch Avenue Newstead (a 5 minute drive from NTCC) will be available for anyone wishing to practise. A Civic Reception and welcome hosted by the Launceston City Council will be held late in the afternoon.

The ISS will be held across the two Launceston venues from September 22nd to 27th with a Presentation Dinner to be held in central Launceston at the Best Western Plus on the evening of the 27th.

TASMANIAN REPRESENTATIVES

Rob McAdam (K) who won the ACA Bronze Medal for Tasmania Is our representative in the Gold Medal...

Our team in the ISS is: -

Men – Rob McAdam (K), Graham Keating (ES), Grant Willson (EL), Daryl Jacobs (ES), Peter Tracey (K) and Hugh Denny (SB- Reserve); and

Women – Sue Beattie (K), Ruth McKean (EL), Gina Kirkland (D), Patsy Paine (D – Captain) with one more member to be nominated.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Tasmania has a long and proud history in the sport of croquet in Australia. The earliest evidence of the game being played in Australia was an advertisement in the Tasmanian 'Walch's Literal Intelligencer' in 1861 and in 1908 Tasmania was the first state to form a State Association.
- Lighthouses at Tasmania's Maatsuyker and Tasman Islands had croquet sets as part of their standard equipment.

AN HISTORICAL SNIPPET

An extract from "The Companion to Tasmanian History" reproduced with permission of Centre for Tasmanian Historical Studies



Croquet appealed to all ages and both sexes: a party at Bishops court, Hobart, about 1870 ('Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts, Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office')

Croquet arrived in Tasmania in the 1860s, but from the 1880s was overshadowed in popularity by tennis. Some felt this a pity since croquet was one game men and women played on equal terms. It became more popular from 1903, with clubs formed in Hobart and Launceston then in country centres, mainly for women. Tasmania's first championships were held in 1913.

Croquet declined during wartime, but otherwise continued quietly, with occasional bursts of enthusiasm. The first Australian Croquet Carnival was held in Launceston in 1952, new clubs appeared in the 1960s, and Jack Read, Hedley Gunton and Harold Clemons – all men despite the claim of equality – were national players. Croquet never had mass appeal and again declined from the 1970s, but in 2003 Tasmanian clubs contained over 300 registered players.