



**Volume 11  
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# Tassie Tales

*The magazine of the Tasmanian Croquet Association Inc.*

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## ***A brief word from the new editor***

Earlier this year I volunteered to take over the production of Tassie Tales from Graeme Denehey who hangs up this particular hat, but continues to wear so many others in his various roles within Tasmanian croquet.

The change in editor and computer software explains the change in format from an A5 booklet to A4. The editorial change and the plethora of recent events delayed this issue, but hopefully this will not be repeated. A minimum of four annual issues is planned from now on, both in hard-copy and in full-colour electronic form, hopefully to be archived on the TCA website

Contributions always welcome.

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By the way, Emily Ardley remains responsible for collating material for Croquet Australia. She can be emailed on [family@bigpond.com](mailto:family@bigpond.com).



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

Some weeks ago I had cause to write to members in the South (particularly new members) who were clearly unaware of the arrangement between clubs for the priority use of lawns during pennants and competitions. Some were even talking about TCA as "they". I wish to remind all members that TCA is all of us. It is made up of members from all clubs and acts only in the interests of clubs and croquet in Tasmania. Support your committees and if you have any problems with what your committees do then get involved and have your say through the front door not over the back fence.

The same can be said for the affairs of individual clubs. I have heard a number of rumblings in clubs which have been caused by people who have recently joined and know little of the intricacies of running clubs or the needs and traditions of how croquet is organised.

As a relative newcomer to the game and the Association I have had to talk regularly with "those in the know" to ensure that things are done properly. Tradition is important but not immutable – if changes need to be made to improve the way we operate then we will do so but often things are done a particular way for very good reasons.

Congratulations to our newest club, St Leonards, and their partners in the Northern Tasmanian Croquet Centre, the East Launceston club, for their organisation of the National Handicap Singles and Double events at the end of October. Their hard work and wonderful hospitality was greatly appreciated by all competitors. In particular, as President, on behalf of all members of TCA, I wish to record thanks to Ian Scott who as Tournament Manager did a magnificent job ( he even got to play a bit too when he wasn't mowing lawns!!). His committee of helpers; Kaye Jeffery, Lee Turner, Jenny Scott, Osma

Marston, Silvia Wing, and Trevor Curtis-Flynn and the Caterers; Jan Barnes, Christine Russell, Eileen Bardenhagen, Eileen Taylor, Lyn Farrell, Rosemary Patterson, Ruth McLean, Bev White and Jennifer Williams all made a superb commitment and ensured everything was done to ensure our inner and outer comfort.

Despite a downpour on the Monday and some very cold, windy and damp weather for most of the week, the tournament went without a hitch and showed just how valuable is the new Croquet Centre. We look forward to the new Club House and Admin. Centre.

A big CONGRATULATIONS to **Ricki Barrett** from Sandy Bay Croquet Club who won the Singles Handicap Championship . Ricki played superbly and thoroughly deserves her win.

Graham Keating (Eastern Shore CC) came in third. Not bad for someone who has only been playing 12 months. Well done Graham.

The Doubles went to Susan and Mike Bertram from the Sunshine Coast. Congratulations to them too.

By now the first stage of the Southern Pennants is completed with three more weeks to be played in the New Year. All teams have put in some great efforts and all pennants are wide open, so we look forward to continued keen and friendly competition.

There is quite a bit of activity going on quietly in the background regarding Croquet in schools. St Leonards has 4 or 5 schools visiting regularly and in the South, since the Primary Schools carnival, clinics have been held with Guildford Young College, St James College Cygnet and Kingston High School.

The next big event will be The Medals. Entries are in and the draw done and we wish all competitors Good Luck and congratulations for entering and thanks for helping make our competitions viable.

Recently, the Golf Handicap Tournament was run at New Town CC. Congratulations to Rob McAdam on his win.

We wish the **Best of Luck** to Sue Beattie who leaves for New Zealand soon to take part in the Women's World Golf Croquet Championships as part of the Australian Team. Take them apart Sue!

*Billeting:* The register of billets now has a few names in each of the North and South. If you are able to add your name as a possible host please let our Competition Secretary know. She is keeping the register and can be contacted if you need to be billeted during a competition.

*Etiquette:* In all sports there are certain niceties which need to be observed. Most of these are fairly obvious, some are not. For the benefit of new players particularly, Tassie Tales will be including some articles on Etiquette over the next few editions. Please take the time to read and heed.

## ***Sandy Bay***

Ricki Barrett reports that Sandy Bay ran a very successful Come and Try day in September and after a 6 week coaching course have happily retained 9 of the 17 participants as full members. Jenny Parrott and her helpers are to be commended for passing on their expertise and enthusiasm for Association and Golf croquet.

The club looks forward to hosting the Silver Medal and wishes Bob, Callum, Peter McCulloch, Ricki, Fritha, Sheena and Bill all the best in their respective Medal events.

## ***Wonderful winter weekend***

For the second year in a row the warmth of the weather was only exceeded by the warmth of the welcome from President Mary Richardson (pictured welcoming competitors) and members of St Helens Croquet Club as over 50 players from 9 of the 10 Tassie Clubs (hope to get some Derwent Valley players next year!) descended on this sleepy East Coast town for the Winter Weekend Golf Croquet Tournament.



Seven Point doubles games on half lawns were contested amid much laughter (Even the non golf croquet converts had fun ...just ask Leah) and although no-one was overly interested in who won after everyone had played 10

games, the hoops were tallied and there was a

tie between Sue Beattie (Kingston) and Tim Meredith (St Helens) on 38 hoops with Robyn Eastley (Royal Park) 2nd with 37 hoops (this was not announced on the day due to an oversight by the games manager who had stayed up very late to help Cadel Evans win the *Tour de France ... sorry Robyn*) which meant John Jacob (Eastern Shore) and Chris West (Devonport) tied for 3rd with 36.



*The strong Royal Park contingent at St. Helens.*

## **Golf Croquet on the Big Island**

The Tasmanian Golf Croquet Team returned triumphantly clutching the 6th Place Trophy after competing in the recent Interstate Shield Competition.

The ten person team all played well with little reward on the score sheet ending with 6 matches and 36 games.



The experience has left us with the following questions:

1. What is the best way to dry your sodden croquet shoes?
  - a) 1 hour in a fan forced oven at 50°
  - b) Placed in tumble drier at 5.30am !
  - c) Using a hairdryer
2. Which female player placed her mallet in the hands of the large Confucius statue in Southbank?

3. Can a McDonald's worker pour 13 ice cream sundaes before the first one melts?
4. How can a 5km Brisbane taxi ride take 40 minutes?
5. If the strawberry runs the watermelon hoop is the black grape off side?
6. Who suggested that the women should do some wood chopping to strengthen their wrists?
7. Was it Darryl's group hug or Gina's Haka that helped us win 10 games against South Australia?

## **Selection Policy**

As part of its selection policy, the TCA has revised the criteria used to evaluate player performance for the State Golf Croquet team:

- a competent level of roqueting ability
- a high level of hoop running and ball placement ability
- Ability to consistently play jump shots
- a low percentage of unforced errors in match play
- tactical knowledge in Golf Croquet play
- successful doubles play
- a good knowledge of the Rules
- performance under pressure.

Performance criteria for Association Croquet remain unchanged:

- success rate of triple peeling, including delayed triple peeling,
- a high level of roqueting ability
- a low percentage of unforced errors in match play
- tactical knowledge in advanced play and in pegged out games
- successful doubles play
- a good knowledge of the Laws,
- performance under pressure



## **Wiring Lifts**

There has been some discussion in recent times about when a ball is wired in an impeded swing situation, so Graeme Denehey (Director of Refereeing) provides the following advice:

Law 13 of the Laws Book explains the matter, in particular *13 c* and *13 d*

*13 c 2* specifies that a ball is wired from another ball if any part of the hoop excluding the jaws or the peg would impede the swing of the mallet before its impact with the relevant ball

*13 d* then goes on to state that “In law *13 c 2* the swing is impeded if there is any part of the end face of the mallet that the striker used in the turn before the relevant ball was positioned with which he would be unable to strike the centre of the relevant ball in order to drive it freely with his normal swing towards any part of the target ball. However the swing is not impeded merely because a hoop or the peg interferes with the striker’s stance

To summarise the most important aspects are:

- The adversary must be responsible for the position of the relevant ball
- The striker must be unable to strike the centre of the relevant ball with any part of the end face of the mallet before making any contact with the hoop or peg. The fact that the striker may not be able to follow through because of the hoop or peg is not relevant
- The referee should conduct the wiring test using the strikers mallet

## **Coaching**

David Wise, Level 2 coach from South Australia has been over in the State for the ACA Handicap Doubles Event, played at St. Leonards. During his week in the State he conducted coaching clinics for interested Golf and Association croquet players. Two sessions were held at Devonport Croquet Club – the first one was so well received and attended by 15 players that David was asked to conduct another session on his return through Devonport a week later – which he did.

The next session was held at St. Leonards Croquet Centre and 15 people attended a Golf Croquet clinic. Five players travelled to Launceston from Hobart and everyone enjoyed a very instructive session, although when it came to a segment on tactics most got a bit lost, since everyone was more keen on running the hoop and taking the chance than playing to

the percentage! On Saturday David, assisted by Sue Beattie held an Association session. Fifteen people attended and were taken through a revision of a wide variety of shots where precision was the aim – near enough was not good enough. The programme continued on the Sunday morning with six of the keenest taking part.

Thanks are due to David, for spending so much time coaching in the north of the State, St. Leonards for making the lawn available and the TCA for paying the cost of hiring a lawn.

The question of accreditation of coaches is a difficult one. Most players can and will help others, but given that there is a method that has been carefully devised by John Riches, ACA Director of coaching (which enables people to become accredited with the Australian Sports Commission and consequently covered by Insurance, including public liability), anyone wishing to ‘coach’ should take the trouble to attend a General Sports Principles Course (one day) and follow the Level 1 Coaching Manual. The cost of this is \$80 + \$20 for the Manual, a fee which most Clubs will pay to ensure that they have at least a Level 1 Coach. Sandy Bay C.C. are fortunate to have one member who will be attending the General Sports Principles course at the beginning of November.

The good news is that we will now have a Level 2 Accredited Coach in the State, the first for many years. Sue Beattie has nearly completed the Course, after being assessed by David during his time here and as Coach of the Tassie Association Team hopes to get a coach from the mainland to conduct a course at the beginning of December.

*Jenny Parrott, TCA Director of Coaching*

## **NRCC Handicap Tournament**

Although entries were disappointing (2 in C-grade and 7 in B-grade) the competition proved to be an even one. In C-grade, Kaye Jeffery defeated Ron Roberts 15-14, 17-9 in a best of three competition.

The B-grade was reduced to 6 players with the withdrawal of Margaret Brockett due to ill health. Playing a round-robin over four days, Patsy Paine and Jan Barnes both had 4 wins out of 5, and an identical hoop difference of +14. As Jan beat Patsy in their individual encounter, she was declared the overall winner.

It was decided to abandon the doubles competition as it involved the same players involved in the singles.



## Season Opening

Kingston Croquet Club member's patience while their lawns were closed has been rewarded with the opening for the 2011/ 2012 season attended by more than thirty members and visitors.



The opening hoop was run by the Mayor (photo courtesy Elaine Roomes).

Team Captains for the Kingston club are

- Association A Grade – Bob Beattie,
- B Grade – Heather Lovell,
- C Grade – vacant.
- Golf Croquet Captain – Kathleen Lines



## Croquet Etiquette

As a growing sport, croquet has many new players coming to grips with how to play. Playing is not just a matter of shot selection and shot execution, but also of playing within both the rules and the spirit of the game.

Similar to Golf, a croquet player is expected to referee themselves, and you cannot do this if you don't know the rules.

In Golf Croquet, rule 14 is labelled *Etiquette* and says that players are responsible for maintaining good standards of behaviour towards other players, equipment, courts and spectators. It gives examples of unacceptable behaviour that players are expected to avoid including:

- Offers tactical advice to anyone other than their partner
- Interrupts the striker by standing or moving in front of them

- Fails to play with reasonable dispatch. Players are not to waste time.
- Plays after the opponent has clearly asked that play be stopped to enable an action to be investigated
- Provides wrong information to an opponent when asked such things as the score, which ball is to play, and how an offside ball reached its position.
- Fails to accept a decision of a referee on a matter of fact, or shows a lack of respect for a referee.

In Association Croquet, Part 4 of the Rules is labelled Conduct of the Game, and includes the following:

- Rule 47 (b): An opponent is entitled to ask their adversary about the state of the game at any time, and the adversary is obliged to reply to the best of their ability.
- Rule 48(a)(1): Players act as referees of the game in the absence of a referee in charge and thereby incur duties as well as rights.
- Rule 48(b): As a referee of the game the striker must immediately announce any error or interference they believe or suspect they may have committed (as for example a still ball in a fine take-off).
- Rule 48(c)(2): The striker must consult their adversary before playing a questionable stroke without calling a referee (for example, when attempting to roquet a ball in the jaws of a hoop).
- Rule 49(a): The striker must position the balls and play their strokes with reasonable dispatch. The adversary should anticipate as far as possible with which ball they will play next so that they waste no time in approaching it at the start of their turn.
- Rule 50(a): A player is not entitled to receive advice from anyone, except their partner in doubles play.

## News from Windmill Hill

Lynne Farrell reports that earlier this year the East Launceston club held a successful garage sale enabling valuable proceeds raised to be forwarded to support the new St. Leonard's croquet facility. Further sales are likely to keep funds flowing

The ACA Men's Association croquet Championships that were held in March 2011 enabled East Launceston members to witness some very professional and exciting games. Several members of the Club enjoyed catering for the competitors and visitors and having the chance to make new friendships. The wind up

dinner held at the Riverside Hotel proved very popular with players, families, friends and club members.

The Tasmanian Croquet Championships held in April provided many enjoyable games at the St.Leonards facility. Games involved experienced players and those who are new to the game. The East Launceston Club had several less experienced players and all have expressed their appreciation of the opportunity to play against the more proven players.

A *club breakfast* was held on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2011 and saw several club members braving the winter chills to enjoy a very tasty breakfast at Tranquility Gardens Restaurant, Legana. Another such outing is planned prior to Christmas .

A *Christmas in Winter* dinner was held at the Charles Hotel on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2011 which had a good turnout and many thanks goes to Neil Pearson for his hard work in arranging same. There are plans for a Christmas dinner on the 6<sup>th</sup> December at Restaurant 13, Commodore Hotel Launceston. A welcome is offered to anyone who would like to attend just contact Lynne Farrell or Neil Pearson.

**CROQUET EVENTS:** East had three very exciting and close events. All matches were closely fought with the winners being:

Novice Round Robin	Lynne Farrell
Hi/Lo	Sue Wise and Trevor Curtis-Flynn
Club Champion	Neil Pearson

Several new members have joined our Club and we warmly welcome one and all. It makes our croquet days very enjoyable.

East Launceston members who attended the St. Helens Social Weekend in July reported that they thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and it is hoped next year we will see more of our members able to attend.

*The Clubhouse has had a complete makeover.* It is looking great and we thank the many club members and the Launceston City Council who worked so hard to create such a pleasant environment. We are indeed fortunate to have such a great facility.

Hopefully summer will arrive soon and we will be able to recommence our evening barbecues again along with a few friendly games.

At the well-attended Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2011 the following were elected:

President	Lee Turner
Vice-President	Neil Pearson,
Secretary	Grant Willson
Treasurer	Trevor Curtis-Flynn
Committee	Pat Byrne, Eileen Bardenhagen, Rikka Cummins, Sue Wise, Ruth McKean Lynne Farrell.

In the NRCC Pennants East plans to have 2 teams in Golf Croquet and one team in Association. Members are very keen and look forward to playing in the sun. Wishing everyone an enjoyable summer of croquet!

## ***What's happening in Devonport***

A new practice court has been set out on the unused section adjacent to the Main lawn. It has been set out to practice 8 shots of croquet and a monthly competition will be run to test member's skills, with a prize for the member with the highest score at the end of the season.



*Trying their skills on the New Practice Lawn - ChrisWest, Joan Gill, and Patsy Paine*

Devonport hopes to be involved in the Active AfterSchool Communities Program with negotiations being conducted at the moment.

It is hoped that we will be able to hold a Mayoral Challenge on the North West Coast with the 7 Mayors competing.

Invitations for the Summer Tournament to be held on the 28th and 29th January 2012 will be sent to the club send November - please add these dates to your calendars, and come and join us for a fun weekend of food, frivolity, friendship and of course croquet.

Come and Try Day was held on the 10th September and we now have 5 attending coaching lessons.

The participation of members in the NRCC Pennants, in both Golf and Association has been appreciated. All grades have been represented. Club tournaments have commenced including the Hi Lo.

To our members who played in the State Golf Croquet Team we hope you enjoyed the experience.

As you can see the Devonport club is in for another busy season, and I wish all of you a happy, healthy and rewarding year.

Until next time - *Norma Windley*

## **Eastern Shore news**

The new season opened at Eastern Shore with a happy gathering of some thirty members on September 3<sup>rd</sup> to witness our Patron, Daphne Cannon, run the first hoop, play some social games and partake of a delightful afternoon tea.

One notable member missing was our oldest and much loved Esther Hutchins who has not been well and we wish her well.

Membership continues to rise with new faces appearing each month.

Our courts are in good shape in spite of having no green keeper, thanks to the efforts of a small group of members who put in many hours tending to the lawns and surrounds, mowing and line marking. This has allowed play to continue right through the year.

The most notable addition around the Club has been the construction of a new players shelter for the lower lawn, dubbed "The White House" for reasons that will be obvious when seen.

Members are currently gearing up to hopefully make an impact in the oncoming Pennant series. As a lead-up we have had round-robin competitions in golf and association games. To date results are Daryl Jacobs winning the GC games with Chris Mackey runner-up. Daryl was also selected for the State GC Team, replacing John Jacob who has represented our Club on the team for the past four years.

*Cecily Jones, Secretary ESCC  
(via John Jacobs).*



## **Czech mate (from Royal Park)**



On a pleasant Wednesday afternoon, we four ladies had reached hoop 7 on a fairly casual, but enjoyable, game of golf croquet. Imagine our surprise when five rugged male faces smilingly emerged over the top of the boundary fence. A teenage boy and three women hovered in the background.

As cameras were produced and began clicking furiously, I exhorted our group with the rallying cry "Tummies in, chests out – girls!"

The hoop proving rather difficult, we were forced to spend quite a time hoping to quell it, so I engaged the group in a conversation which was necessarily rather brief, owing to my total ignorance of the Czech language and the group's spokesman being somewhat between his **L**s and his **P**s in English.

It transpired that croquet is very popular in Czechoslovakia and that the group, with only 20 days in Australia, had chosen to spend a week in Tasmania.

Hoping to give them something worthwhile, I managed to execute a couple of smart stop-shots (tactically unconnected and superfluous to the game), while another member ran the hoop from a very impressive distance, through the "back door", but to the delight of the Czechs.

None of this was achieved easily, given the anatomical constraints vis-à-vis tummies, chests and so on.

As our visitors finally left to wander in to town and we relaxed our bodies to approach the next hoop, I wondered if we have created some sort of Tasmanian club record. Can anyone claim such a large group from a country so far away?

*Gillian Willson, Vice President, RPCC*

## **Northern News**

Hopefully by now many of you will have had a chance to visit and play on the new six-lawn complex at St. Leonards in Launceston.

In recent years the North of the state has seen significant growth in membership of its croquet clubs, to the stage where too many people were sharing too few lawns. Many players recognised that more lawns were needed, and thanks to the generosity of the



Launceston City Council, and the tireless lobbying of Ian Scott and others, we now have the six lawns prepared for the recent Australian Men's Championships available at St. Leonards.



*Robert Fletcher of Victoria on his way to winning the Australian Men's Championship.*

Moving in Launceston from 2 lawns to 8 has meant much thought and much discussion on how best to utilise and to manage these facilities.



*St. Leonard's members Ian Scott & Kaye Jeffery plus East Launceston members Grant Willson & Trevor Curtis-Flynn at work preparing the lawns.*

After much discussion, a new club St. Leonards has been set up under President Ian Scott, Vice President Osma Marston, Secretary Bob Godfrey and Treasurer Kaye Jeffery. The club membership continues to grow, and the club has a policy of encouraging competitive play. It has entered teams in all NRCC pennant competitions, and has had early success in local and interstate events.

The club tied on points with Devonport in the NRCC Golf croquet pennants, but finished second on games played. Jan Barnes won the NRCC B-grade handicap tournament, with Kaye Jeffery taking out the C-grade. Bob Godfrey tied for second place with Henry Burbury of New Town in the plate event at the recent ACA Men's Golf Croquet Championships. He also, partnered by Russell Kopp of South Australia's Tea Tree Gully club, won a gold medal in the A-division

Association Croquet Doubles at the recent Australian Masters Games held in Adelaide.

The new club, together with the East Launceston Croquet Club, has formed the Northern Tasmanian Croquet Centre (NTCC for short – and apologies to the New Town club!) with the President (Ian Scott) and secretary (Bob Godfrey) coming from the St. Leonard's club, and the Vice President (Lee Turner) and the Treasurer (Trevor Curtis-Flynn) coming from East Launceston.

The Centre is responsible for all aspects of use of the venue, with the St. Leonard's club being responsible just for its members and their affiliation and participation in TCA/NRCC events. Members are still working out demarcation lines. *Senior's Week* was a St. Leonard's club initiative, while the *Active Launceston Expo* was a joint activity by both clubs. *School for Seniors* is an east Launceston activity, but conducted at the St. Leonards facility.

The St. Helens and Devonport clubs have expressed interest in joining the Centre, while the Royal Park club wants to focus on its own site for the time being at least.

The Launceston City Council has provided money in this year's budget to erect clubrooms, and is seeking a top-up grant from the State government. Whether it is an empty shell or fully equipped depends on how far the money can spread, but recent discussions with Council officers leads us to believe we can leave our temporary accommodation early next year.



*Osma Marston taking an active interest in setting up the (hopefully temporary) clubrooms*

## **ACA Handicap Tournament**

23 entries were received including representatives from Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and West Australia. This



number reduced to 19 due to medical and family problems.

The Doubles, held on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> was between ten couples, in two blocks, the winners of both blocks meeting in a final. The winners of block 1 were Bob Beattie and Graham Keating, and of Block 2 were Sue and Mike Bertram. The Bertrams won the final 26/13. We were grateful for Grant Willson stepping in to replace Margaret Brockett who had to pull out due to ill health.

The weather on the Monday was diabolical. Heavy rain in the preceding night gave sodden lawns which were barely playable and the rain continued throughout the day. The two later games were reduced to 2½ hrs. because of the conditions. All players are to be congratulated on persevering in those conditions. The weather on the next day was just the opposite, drying out the lawns early on.

The Singles were intended to be for two Blocks of 10 each. Due to medical and other factors this number reduced to 16, 7 in Block A, 9 in Block B. Again we were grateful to have a substitute, Neil Drury, to boost the number in Block A to give more games to those in that block. All players in Block A went through to the 16 player Knockout, but Ian Scott was eliminated from Block B.

Play was over three days, with three rounds per day. For those without a Bye on the day this proved excessive especially for high handicap players who, without the skill to use their bisques to good effect, rarely made worthwhile breaks and this made for full 3 hour games. I would recommend either reducing the number of games per day to two, or reducing the time for all games to two and a half hours for future handicap Tournaments which, quite rightly, attract a majority of high handicap players.

The Knock-out required two rounds on the Saturday, with the Semi finals and the final on the Sunday. The play off for third place also took place on the Sunday. The final was a very defensive game between Ricki Barrett, the winner, and Tiffany Street, runner up. Graham Keating had a very equal game to beat Alistair Robertson for third place.

A Plate event had been planned to start on the Saturday afternoon for those knocked out in the first round and to continue with those knocked out from the second round on the Sunday morning. In the event this attracted

minimal interest as most players claimed exhaustion.

A BBQ was provided on the evening prior to the first day and a very enjoyable Prize Giving dinner in a local hotel on the final night.

We were blessed with a very efficient team of ladies from the two local clubs, St Leonards and East Launceston, who provided a constant source of hot and cold drinks, and delicious hot and cold finger foods to keep the players happy. On some of the less clement days this was a godsend! Kaye Jeffries organised this, and the supply of lunchtime sandwiches. We were indeed very grateful for their efforts.

From reports received from the competitors the tournament was enjoyed by all and we can hope that good words will be spread by those who came from other States.

*Ian Scott, Tournament Manager*

## Who's Who?



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